

Discussion on the Inheritance Path of Traditional Skills Based on the Public Elective Course of “Han Embroidery Craft” in Jiangnan University

Shengli Chen^{1,*} and Jinsong Yu²

¹School of Design, Jiangnan University, Wuhan, Hubei 430056, China

²School of Art and Design, Wuhan University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei 430065, China

*Corresponding author. Email: 527395960@qq.com

ABSTRACT

Based on the public elective course of "Han Embroidery Craft" offered by Jiangnan University, this paper discusses the teaching practice path of promoting traditional skills of intangible cultural heritage among college students. It is suggested that local colleges and universities should adopt the measures of "bringing in" and "going out" under the policy support of intangible cultural heritage entering colleges and universities. On one hand, intangible cultural heritage inheritors are invited to enter the teaching practice field of colleges and universities to strengthen the relationship between universities and folk groups, which provides the possibility of "learning for practical use" transformation. On the other hand, colleges and universities encourage the development and design of Han Embroidery cultural and creative products through undergraduate graduation design exhibition and actively participating in the public welfare exhibition and exchange meeting held by the government, so as to form the inheritance path that can undertake the task of cultivating traditional skill inheritors and realize the goal of effectively serving the society.

Keywords: *Intangible cultural heritage; Han Embroidery Craft; Traditional skills; Inheritance and practice*

1. INTRODUCTION

Intangible cultural heritage is the "living soul" of human beings, the precious memory of national traditional culture and the life code of national culture. It carries unique and rich imagination, cultural consciousness and national spirit, and has unique significance and value for human survival and development [1]. Offering the public elective course of "Han Embroidery Craft" in Colleges and universities can not only inherit and practice the traditional skills of Han Embroidery, but also inject fresh blood into its inheritance and make it carry forward.

1.1. Public Elective Course of Han Embroidery Craft

Public elective courses are the subjects that students choose to be interested in besides the compulsory courses arranged by the school. Different universities have different public elective courses. "Han Embroidery Technology" is a school level public elective course for all undergraduate students of Jiangnan University. The course starts in spring, mainly for basic training of traditional Chinese embroidery method of needle for students. The course includes three parts: the development history of Han Embroidery, materials and tools, and the traditional needling practice with flowers as the performance object. In the learning process of the specific course, first of all,

through the history of development, the basic needle method of Han embroidery, color matching characteristics, common materials and tools for making works and other knowledge is preliminarily understood, so that students can form a basic cognition of the intangible culture of Han embroidery. Then, they enter the practice of traditional Han embroidery needle method training, through the use of needle, thread to model, have the basic ability to use needle method. Finally, the instructor summarized the course by collective comments and students' self-evaluation on their works, so as to further improve students' cognitive ability of Han Embroidery and stimulate their love for it [1]. In a word, the public elective course of "Han Embroidery Craft" aims to cultivate students' recognition of traditional culture, improve their cultural literacy and explore the possibility of inheriting talents of Han Embroidery through the experience of traditional skills of Han Embroidery.

1.2. Traditional Skills of Han Embroidery

The traditional techniques of Han embroidery mainly refer to the embroidery needling method system which uses needle and thread to embroider patterns on the background materials. The artistic styles of different needling techniques are also different. The needling methods of Han Embroidery can be divided into two categories: common needling and characteristic needling. Among them, the commonly used needling methods include three kinds:

neaten needling, mixing needling and wandering needling; and the characteristic needling methods include net needling, nailing gold, pan gold, locking embroidery and plain gold clip embroidery. In embroidery, the combination of needling method and pattern structure expression can present aesthetic effects such as regular, uniform and dense, and shallow relief. The combination of needle technique and the expression of color level can present the gradual change of color from deep to light in a delicate way, so as to produce a sense of step level, and give full play to the visual characteristics of its chroma, hue and color scale [2]. It can be seen that Han embroidery, as a kind of embroidery, is also an artistic work full of emotion in which embroidery artists arrange and combine needles and threads as basic elements on specific background materials with unique needle technique. The artistic features of Han embroidery were also expressed through the artists' unique needlework, creating embroidery products with regional style.

2. THE INTEGRATION OF "HAN EMBROIDERY CRAFT" OPEN CLASS AND INHERITANCE OF TRADITIONAL SKILLS

2.1. Exploring New Ways to Cultivate Talents with Traditional Skills

At present, there is a lack of successors in the inheritance of many intangible cultural heritage projects, which has become a prominent problem in the continuation of traditional culture. Inheritance and protection of excellent national cultural heritage has become a consensus reached by cultural personages from all walks of life, but the way of inheritance of master and apprentice or family inheritance cannot meet the needs of the current situation of cultural inheritance and protection [3]. Therefore, it is urgent to take new measures to perfect the inheritance chain and expand the inheritance team. As a local university, Jiangnan University undertakes the important task of serving the local economic and cultural construction. The cultivation of Applied Talents in line with the local needs is also the main task of its education. At the same time, the school is the most important local university in the region where the intangible cultural heritage Han Embroidery is located. It is worth trying to combine Jiangnan University with the inheritance of Han Embroidery. It can not only cultivate more inheritors of intangible cultural heritage, but also be of great benefit to optimize the ecological environment of Han Embroidery. Teachers and students of related majors in the school can take advantage of their own discipline and specialty to carry out targeted investigation activities to help relevant Han Embroidery Culture projects to further complete the collection and collation of basic data. On the basis of more detailed and complete data accumulation, relevant majors

of Jiangnan University can offer elective courses to enable more students to increase their understanding of intangible cultural heritage culture, which can not only enhance the cultural atmosphere of the university campus, stimulate college students' love and identification of traditional culture, but also cultivate more excellent talents who serve the local area and constantly devote themselves to the inheritance and development of local culture.

2.2. Setting up Characteristic Courses Rooted in Regional Resources

Colleges and universities can play an important role in the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage and take the important task in the continuation of excellent traditional Chinese culture. As a local university, Jiangnan University has unique regional and cultural advantages. Relying on school teaching and scientific research institutions, actively participating in the cultivation of Han Embroidery inheritance talents can not only better serve the local cultural construction, but also cultivate students' consciousness of inheriting and protecting their own national cultural heritage, thus laying a good foundation for the revitalization and development of national culture. At present, the lack of characteristics of curriculum in local colleges and universities is more serious. The intangible cultural heritage of different regions is the most typical humanistic characteristics of the region, with distinct regional characteristics, which theoretically provides an opportunity for the setting of characteristic courses in Colleges and universities [4]. Jiangnan University attaches great importance to the local intangible cultural heritage resources, and organizes the teachers and students of the school of design to investigate and study in winter, summer and spare time. Among them, the intangible cultural heritage Han Embroidery project has formed a systematic investigation data and a series of theoretical research results, and on this basis, according to the needs of discipline construction, the introduction of curriculum construction, the establishment of public elective courses, clearly written into the teaching plan, as an important content of cultivating students' overall quality and ability, forms a characteristic course rooted in regional resources. This measure can not only give full play to the important role of professional and technical personnel in Colleges and universities, but also expand the academic vision of teachers and students, enhance the ability of academic research, so that the knowledge in books can be truly applied and has a real application.

3. INHERITANCE AND PRACTICE PATH OF TRADITIONAL HAN EMBROIDERY SKILLS

Colleges and universities should deeply explore the historical value of Chinese excellent traditional culture and promote its coordination with contemporary culture and

modern society. To actively implement the measures of "bringing in" and "going global" of culture is not only conducive to the prosperity of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, but also conducive to enhancing comprehensive national strength, enhancing international status, spreading Chinese culture and highlighting China's image.

3.1. "Bringing In" the Inheritors of Han Embroidery

The inheritance of intangible cultural heritage is mainly carried by human beings and exists in the form of "oral transmission and heart teaching". In the long historical process, inheritors are undoubtedly the main body of cultural heritage, especially for those who master the folk "unique skills". In May 2018, the Ministry of culture and tourism announced the fifth batch of representative inheritors of national intangible cultural heritage projects. Huang Shenghui, the inheritor of Han Embroidery, has become the first national inheritor at the age of 82 since Han Embroidery was selected into the national intangible cultural heritage project for 10 years. For many years, Huang Shenghui makes great effort for training talent of Han embroidery, a lot of female workers of Han embroidery that she trains, make industry leading role gradually. Among them, since the late 1990s, under the guidance of master of Huang Shenghui, Ms. Wang Ziyi has begun to specialize in Han embroidery, making bold innovations in techniques, materials and color matching. At the same time, she also studied Chu culture deeply, participated in intangible cultural heritage training class of Tsinghua University, successfully integrated traditional elements of Jingchu into Han embroidery works, and devoted herself to the inheritance of Han embroidery culture.

Inviting Huang Shenghui and Wang Ziyi, two famous inheritors of Han embroidery, to enter Jiangnan University is the practice of "bringing in". In 2014, Associate professor Chen Shengli of the School of Design of the University, in cooperation with two inheritors, opened the first period of training on the inheritance of Han embroidery skills, which realized the introduction of intangible culture into universities for the first time. During the training, Ms. Wang Ziyi not only taught the theoretical knowledge of Han embroidery, but also guided the students' embroidery skills with Ms. Huang Shenghui (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). The training has received good feedback and accumulated some teaching experience, which provides a strong basis for the school to open the "Han Embroidery craft" public elective course. In several sessions of Han embroidery skills training, Ms. Wang Ziyi reformed the apprenticeship training mode of traditional folk art, highlighted the "progressive" training, focused on the guidance and training of outstanding students, especially the teachers of the Han embroidery craft course, encouraged and created opportunities to help Associate Professor Chen Shengli, the course partner, grow into the

inheritor of Han Embroidery. By "Bring in" the inheritors of Han Embroidery into colleges and universities, an effective path has been found out for the inheritance of Han embroidery skills.



Figure 1. Making a demonstration by Ms. Huang Shenghui



Figure 2. Guiding the students by Ms. Wang Ziyi

3.2. "Going Out" Creative Products of Han Embroidery

Culture is the soul of a country and a nation. The state proposes to stimulate the innovation and creativity of the whole nation's culture and build a socialist cultural power [5]. The exhibition of intangible cultural heritage is held to show the splendid civilization of China for five thousand years, and let the outside world see the exquisite traditional Chinese craftsmanship. It is not only the cultural exchange, but also the practice of Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritance and development. The large-scale exhibition held by the government is an important way to carry forward and inherit the traditional skills of intangible cultural heritage. China Yangtze River intangible cultural heritage exhibition, which is held every two years in Wuhan, Hubei Province, is sponsored by the China Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Association, China Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center, Wuhan Municipal People's government and Hubei Provincial Department of culture. It is a beneficial exploration and vivid practice to implement the national development strategy of the Yangtze River economic belt and the development plan of the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. It is of great significance to display and publicize the achievements of intangible cultural heritage protection in the Yangtze River Basin, promote the protection of intangible cultural heritage in the Yangtze River Basin, and build a cooperation and exchange

mechanism for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in the Yangtze River Basin urban agglomeration [6]. As the inheritor of Han Embroidery, Associate Professor Chen Shengli, the lecturer of public elective course of "Han Embroidery Craft" of Jiangnan University, led the students and works to participate in the exhibition. On the one hand, the teachers and students show their unique technique on the spot. On the other hand, they also tell the media and the audience the vivid story of how Jiangnan University used public elective courses to cultivate inheritors of Han embroidery in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, so as to arouse the general public's veneration and respect for the traditional culture of the motherland. (Fig 3).



Figure 3. Interviewed by the media

The graduation project exhibition is another platform to promote intangible cultural heritage. Graduation design mainly refers to the important link of Art College Students' professional training. It is not only a display of graduation project phased results, but also a comprehensive report of learning achievements in the past four years. Jiangnan University encourages students to display their works in various forms and contents. Graduation design works should not only reflect the efforts and phased results of students, but also review students' ability to apply professional theoretical knowledge to design practice. In recent years, in the graduation design exhibition of Jiangnan Design Institute, the innovative form of taking Han Embroidery as the design theme and the traditional skills of Han Embroidery as the expression means has brought people both familiar and fresh intangible cultural heritage art experience. For example, the graduation project series "new look of Han Embroidery" carries out in-depth expansion research from the aspects of functionality, fashion, art and decoration, and strengthens the regional characteristics and value embodiment of Han Embroidery cultural and creative products (Figure 5) in the tourism market, gift market, cultural market, home market, clothing market and other fields. This kind of graduation design, which combines traditional intangible cultural heritage skills with modern design, is more and more popular with teachers and students. It not only verifies the teaching effect of intangible cultural heritage courses such as "Han Embroidery Craft", but also stimulates students' love for traditional skills and helps them understand the real connotation of creative transformation and innovative

design of excellent traditional culture of the motherland [7].

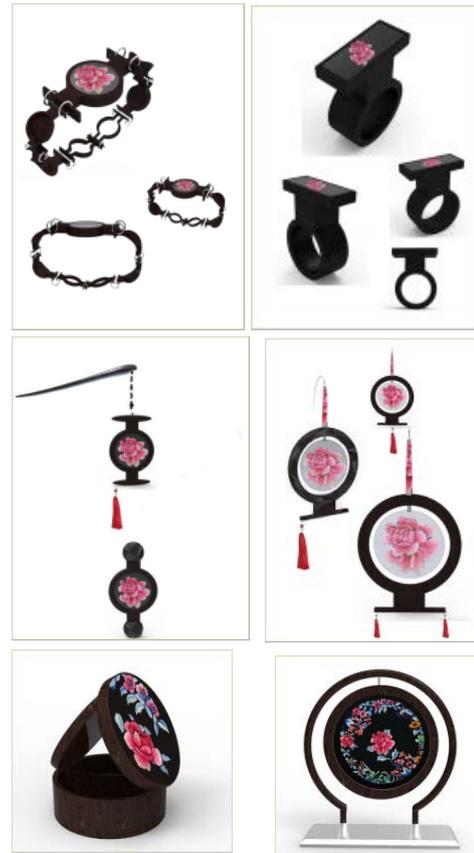


Figure 4. Han embroidery series of cultural and creative products

4. CONCLUSION

Intangible cultural heritage is an important symbol of the historical and cultural achievements of a country and a nation. It is not only of great significance to the study of the evolution of human civilization, but also has a unique role in showing the diversity of world culture. It is the common cultural wealth of mankind [7]. The public elective course of "Han Embroidery Craft" offered by Jiangnan University helps the younger generation understand the cultural details of Han Embroidery and stimulate their love for Han Xiu. Through the redevelopment of traditional skills and the combination of modern and contemporary design, the traditional and fashion can be integrated, and the cultural and creative products reflecting regional characteristics can be created by using new themes, new patterns and new colors. It can be seen that the systematic professional training in Colleges and universities can stimulate students' interest in familiar and unfamiliar folk skills in the short-term contact with intangible cultural heritage. Some students may become potential inheritance and promotion groups of intangible cultural heritage in the future. They will inject

fresh blood into the inheritance of Han Embroidery and shoulder the responsibility of carrying forward it.

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