

Chinese Art Appreciation and Collection Under Aesthetical Perspective

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ABSTRACT

At current information era, people has already been not satisfied with the material life. Thus, the pursuit of spiritual life and a better taste has been brought into modern people’s lives and art collections then exists as a symbol of their owner’s tastes. The long time span of artworks and their massive expression form made different people have different interpretations for a single artwork.

Keywords: *Artwork, Art appreciation, Aesthetic*

1. INTRODUCTION

An artwork is an object that refreshes people’s thought and makes an impact to traditional ideas. Artworks usually made by artists and they are usually aesthetic. At the same time, artworks are also regarded as a unique and personal work which express the connotation of arts and broaden the edge of art. Baidu encyclopedia’s definition of artwork is “Artwork is the intellectual work of artists and they circulate in the art market as a special commodity. Artworks has the natures of a regular commodity, the value and the use value. However, being different with regular commodity, the use value of artwork exists on the

spiritual level but not on the material level. Artworks are satisfying people’s aesthetic and spiritual needs, so the use value of artworks may be influenced by subjective judgement.” There are many forms of artwork and these forms include physical and non-physical. So far, artworks have the forms of painting, china, purple sands, music instruments, sculpture, sandstone, sandstone imitation, colored glaze, iron works, bronze works, glass fiber, resin, glass, stone, ancient furniture, wood sculpture, floriculture, tea art etc. (Table 1). Artwork is the expression of the artist’s thought, so every artwork could tell the artist’s view and comprehension of an object. Artist express their ideas by mixing the elements of artwork to create new artworks.

Table 1. Different category of Chinese Art

Category	Description
Painting	Chinese painting’s style and content represents ancient people’s knowledge about nature and society. The content and artistic creation of Chinese painting embodies the ancient people’s understanding of nature, society and related political, philosophical, religious, moral, literary and other aspects.
Musical Instruments	The instruments which produce sound and are used for musical creation to convey emotions and thoughts. The production of musical instruments not only requires the products to have a reasonable and exquisite appearance, but also must have good acoustic quality, including timbre, music and the specified pitch height.
Sculpture	It is the general term for the three creative methods of carving, engraving and moulding. Refers to the use of various plastic materials or hard materials that can be carved or engraved to create a visual and tangible artistic image with a certain space, so as to reflect social life and express the artist’s aesthetic feelings, aesthetic emotions, and aesthetic ideals.
China	This material usually has high hardness but low plasticity. Besides its application on food container and decoration, there is massive application on science and technology.
Bronze	Bronze is the metal which originated in bronze age. Chinese bronze has complex a beautiful appearance which is highly appreciated by world, it represent the technology and art in early Qing dynasty.

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARTWORK

The objective of art creation is expression. Although the expression has many forms, it aims at conveying certain information to the audience. In my point of view, the significance of artworks is to create channels for artists to express their ideas. Artists usually have strong motivation of expression and they are eager to be accepted by others. Then there are artworks and connoisseur. Artworks are not created randomly. As an artist, it must have a deep connotation. This connotation could be a view of an event, a satire of a social phenomenon or an expression of an attitude. Artwork, originally a lifeless object, could be spirited after being granted the thought of artist. Although there is no limit to create an artwork and everyone can create their own artwork, but an artwork could only be regarded successful when it can bring resonance to its viewers. An artwork fails when it fails to convey certain emotion or information. Currently, there are some people who regarded themselves as artists and they just paint randomly and meaninglessly, their paintings look like abstract art but actually they are just random lines and dots which cannot be regarded as artwork. They are just a small group of people, and there are more people who want to express themselves through artwork, although most of the time they are doing it through painting.

3. THE APPRECIATION OF ARTWORKS

Artwork is the result of the artists' creation to express certain idea. They intergrade these ideas into the artworks and use artworks as intermediate. Audience receive these ideas through appreciation and their own interpretation. In early history, artworks are mainly sculpture and painting. Taking the three-color glazed camel carrying musicians as an example (Figure1). The camel was carrying a bag decorated with beast's face, the silk and kettle were placed properly. It opened its mouth and stretched its neck. The camel was at a gesture of standing up and start its journey to the silk road. When people are looking at this sculpture, the picture of Chang'an in Tang dynasty was brought into their mind and they can feel the prosperity of that age as well as the mixture of oriental and west culture. Being different with early age artworks, the artworks in modern

age mainly refer to calligraphy. General speaking, a calligraphy artwork usually embodies the calligrapher's personal character, and the calligrapher's character determined their artwork's style and spirit. The structure, line, and writing style also determined by the calligrapher's comprehension of the Chinese characters. As a result, the calligraphy is the calligrapher's art expression. Taking the "The Orchid Pavilion", an artwork of Wang Xizhi as an example (Figure2), this calligraphy is the harmony of style, structure and writing technique. There is identical line up of the characters and the width between each character is relatively large, the structure of each character is also solid. It's writing style is casual and relax. This calligraphy as a whole conveys a sense of relax and freedom. When we appreciate this calligraphy, we can feel Xizhi's connection between his writing and his mind. His work was a symbol of the aesthetics of writing and make writing could have an emotional impact.



Figure 1. Three-color Glazed Camel

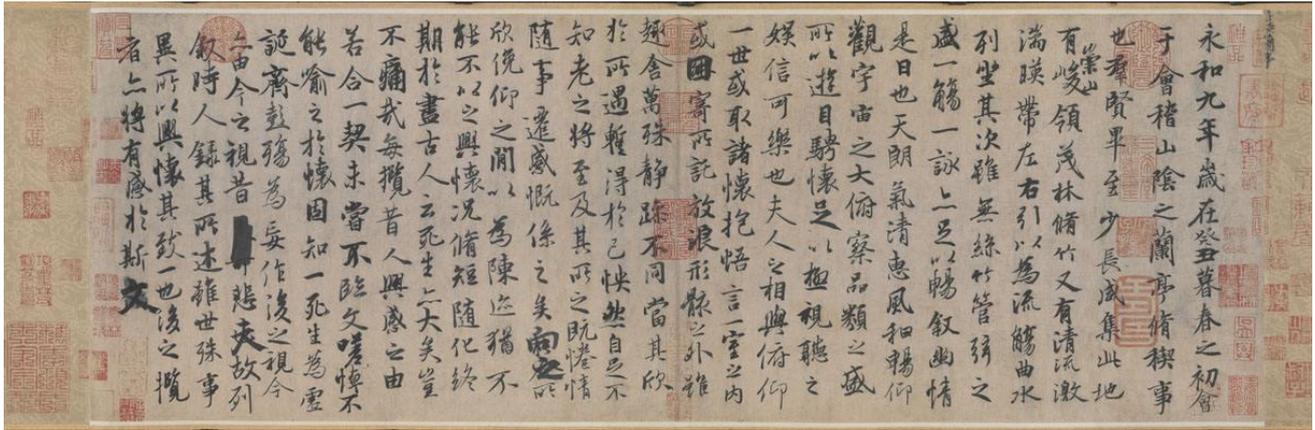


Figure 2. The Orchid Pavilion by Wang Xizhi

4. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ARTWORK

Two main characteristics of artwork are uniqueness and non-utility.

The first characteristic is uniqueness. Compared with regular object, an artwork embodies the artist's emotion and idea and regular object was produced to perform certain task and there is no idea of its creator. Common objects were made to convenience people's life and they are mass-produced then are sold on the market. When the products are sold out and there is still needs to these products, the producer will produce more. In contrast, because the artwork conveys the artist's thought and ideas, it will be unique when artist creates it and shall not be replaced. "There are no same leaves in the world." Although an artwork could be replicated, but it is never the creation of the original artist.

The second character of artist is non-utility. Currently many artworks are circulating in the art market. In the sellers and buyer's mind, the price of an artwork is not determined by the artwork itself but the buyer's willingness after the appreciation and interpretation of the artwork. It's important to emphasis the non-utility of the artwork because an artwork was not originally created for selling. In my point of view, an artworks value should not be judged by its selling price in the art market. When we appreciate an artwork, we should evaluate it from its appearance and connotation based on our own aesthetic view and interpretation. The appreciation of artwork under aesthetic perspective is a non-utility judgement and is the audience's own emotional and objective evaluation. An artwork's value could be sensed only by removing its market price.

5. CURRENT SITUATION AND PROBLEM OF ART COLLECTION

With the development of the society, people's material life is continuously improving, and people are now pursuit the spiritual and emotional satisfaction. Art collection provides a great way to satisfy this pursuit, so it is becoming popular in the society. Some problems also rise in this situation. For instance, some collectors require the artworks they collect should only be created by famous artists and it should be famous in international art market, the price should be high enough. These collectors ignore the aesthetic connotation of the artworks but emphasis the market value of the artwork and make artwork appreciation meaningless. This is because the appreciation of artwork is not the appreciation of the artist. Furthermore, not all the works of an artist should be appreciated. Some artworks are just early works of an artist, and at that time, the artist's life experience was not rich, their techniques were not mature, and their style was still not formed. These artworks were not as valued as their late works. During the artwork appreciation, if the value of an artwork was determined by who created this work, this will become a misguidance for the collectors and create chaos in art market. In my point of view, only professional and experienced collector could judge the value of an artwork. As a qualified art collector, he/she should comprehend the artwork and feel the resonance between him/her and the artwork. A strong resonance means a great value of the artwork to the collector. As a result, there are lots of artists who satisfy themselves by collecting their loved artworks and the satisfaction these artworks generated had go beyond the market value. Artworks are commodity and their price are determined by demand and supply. However, artworks are special commodity because they are spiritual consumptions. In this perspective, artworks are current assets with limited market, collectors can easily collect them but could not sell them easily. Artworks should not be regarded as money-making tools but an intangible asset for collectors.

Nowadays there are lots of collectors who collect artwork just for showing up but not appreciation. They only collect high value artworks to satisfy their vanity and try to show their taste by these artworks. This kind of art collection is meaningless in my view.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, artwork is a spiritual production of the artist's ideas and emotions, and it's an expression of their inner mind. As an art collector, it's important to have cultural background and appreciation ability to see beyond the appearance of the artworks to reach the artist's ideas and emotions.

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