

# "Humanistic Care" of Contemporary Sculpture

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## ABSTRACT

Contemporary art may be more closely related to personal life and social problems. From a simple visual point of view, people can only see the external modeling beauty or ugliness of contemporary art works, but identify whether they have certain cultural values from the psychological and social levels. With the rapid development of the concept of art humanistic noumenon in the new era, sculpture has diversified development. Sculpture not only has the pursuit of appearance, but also pays more attention to the internal cultural taste.

**Keywords:** *Sculpture, Aesthetic needs, Humanistic care.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of language style of contemporary sculpture has almost come to the edge, and the creation of sculpture has fallen into an unprecedented blind crisis. Sculpture itself is a form of artistic expression, the innovation and development of sculpture should not be limited to a single modal "circle art", nor should it be too extensive to lose the core idea, should follow the historical law of art development. Especially, contemporary young sculpture artists should adhere to the cultural extremity of sculpture. With the change of The Times, sculpture creators actively explore new ways of expression and language style, so as to move towards the new trend of humanism era.

## 2. THE CULTURAL VALUE OF SCULPTURE IN THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

In prehistoric times, human ancestors learned to make stone tools in their struggle with nature. With the progress of stone manufacturing technology and the change of shape, stone became the basic carrier of recording people's life and belief, which was the sculpture material most commonly used at that time. As civilization continues to progress, the evolution and improvement of sculpture skills and aesthetic concepts can be seen. Human beings began to create what they imagine or see. After long-term exploration and accumulation, the skills in carving

figures and animals have been improved. The ancient Egyptians and Greeks had great achievements in humanistic symbol, freedom and nature, and also did well in chiseling stone. At the same time, they had already explained on the precise calculation and application of stone, such as the accuracy and integrity of sculpture technology. Through the dissemination of art, human beings can promote the development of culture. After ancient people conquered stone, these stone carvings reflect the beliefs and aesthetic concepts of ancient Egyptians, the beautiful legends, heroic achievements and competitive activities of ancient Greek human beings. Humanism reached a world-class peak in the Italian Renaissance.

The Qin Shi Huang's Buried Sculpture Legion, stone carvings of Huo Qubing Stone Carving, Yungang Grottoes, Longmen Grottoes and other art forms in China all conform to the current politics, economy and culture. These sculptures in China fully reflect the value orientation of art and culture against the background of the times. With the changes of society, against the background of the times, religious culture has the function of appeasing the people one after another. The afterlife and karma theory of Buddhist culture originated. Combining the form of murals and sculpture, the rulers excavated many places to transmit Buddhist content, appease the people, educate the people and rule the society. People seek spiritual sustenance, pursue "cultural care", and even spontaneously dig caves to make statues, which can no longer be simply identified as

sculpture art. In addition to religion, the more representative sculpture art comes from the rise of tomb culture. Hooke believes that burials decorate the dead with living creatures, while elephants live while facing death. Knowing death, human beings know the life. This is a form of tombs, symbolizing the dead. Therefore, the aboveground and underground buildings of tombs and the necessities of life of tombs should imitate that in the real world. The magnificent terracotta warriors and horses in the mausoleum of Qin Shihuang are not only the portrayal of the world, but also the rudiment of art expressing humanity.

Nowadays, human civilization has reached a new height, and the culture and art are constantly replaced. In the process of development, sculpture art shows different humanistic connotations and values in each era.

### **3. THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AESTHETIC CHANGE OF SCULPTURE**

The development of culture always follows certain laws, and the aesthetic changes of sculpture art are also born one after another with the derivation of culture. People should not only understand the law of aesthetic development, but also judge the due change attribute of this law, which is conducive to deep understanding of the essence of sculpture art. Of course, things are not always good. In many cases, there will be two aspects, which requires people to treat them dialectically. On the one hand, it is necessary to affirm the positive influence of the aesthetic change of sculpture art. In fact, this change is inevitable in the development of sculpture art. Through aesthetic transformation, sculpture art is easy to be standardized and the development of sculpture art is more perfect. The process of change must be accompanied by the deconstruction, selection and inheritance of sculpture art, which will inevitably lead to the innovation of sculpture art. On the other hand, it is required to recognize the problems existing in the process of development. Due to the lack of cultural accumulation, people lack aesthetic awareness of sculpture art, and may just superimpose the aesthetic expressions on the basis of one-sided understanding of sculpture art. This is undoubtedly a lack of attention to sculpture, leading to a lack of understanding of aesthetics.

When creating works, the artist first considers the modeling and how to make the form accurately interpret his creativity to meet his own aesthetic

requirements, and then selects the appropriate modeling media from the materials people know. The concept of taking shape as the creative expression center is a traditional modeling method. The creation of modern sculpture depends more on the physical characteristics of the material itself (gloss, hard, soft, etc.), and also on the special aesthetic effect of these characteristics on people's mind, that is, the feeling of material. For example, Henry Moore's creation does not start from the observing the model, but from observing and feeling the natural texture of wood, metal and stone. Therefore, his works are the products of the combination of material nature and spiritual form.[1]

For thousands of years, Chinese traditional culture has gradually formed a "Chinese style" aesthetic with national characteristics, which is reflected in many fields such as poetry, literature, painting and so on. Under the influence of traditional culture, the gradually formed aesthetic thought also recognized the development of sculpture art. In addition, the aesthetic orientation of sculpture art was subtly affected, and the aesthetic conception changed. As far as traditional sculpture and modern sculpture art are concerned, the external manifestation of its aesthetic changes is the grasp of artistic aesthetic creation, and the essence of culture is the sublimation of artistic aesthetic realm.

### **4. ARTISTIC AESTHETIC CREATION UNDER DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS**

When analyzing the aesthetic orientation of traditional sculpture art and modern sculpture art, it is not difficult to see that there are many differences between these two aesthetic orientations. In fact, as far as sculpture art is concerned, its beauty is not static. Under different humanistic environments and social backgrounds, sculpture art will always show different aesthetic feelings. Therefore, when people investigate the aesthetic creation of sculpture art, it is suggested not to understand the external appearance of sculpture superficially, but to understand the aesthetic characteristics of sculpture art in terms of its internal and humanistic environment. This requires traditional sculpture art to take root in the core of national culture (that is, the essence of national culture), consider the creation needs of sculpture art, and realize the sense of mission endowed by traditional culture to sculpture art. For modern sculpture art, under the influence of such different cultural trends, all it

needs to do is stick to itself and make the most suitable choice for the development of the times.

In traditional Chinese culture and art, people have been tirelessly pursuing artistic conception. In sculpture art, it is not limited to the vividness of the image itself, but pays attention to the "charm" of the image. Due to the influence of intentionality, traditional sculpture art always derives nourishment from the performance of the image, and strives to achieve the artistic effect of "painting spirit by form" with concise techniques and silent performance. The aesthetic conception produced in this process is naturally based on the sculptor's perception of reality. However, due to the lack of expression means and the constraints of social factors, the artistic aesthetic realm of sculpture creation is often not deep enough. Modern sculpture art is not restricted. With more superior creation conditions and free creation environment, modern sculptors have more space, which is undoubtedly conducive to the improvement of artistic aesthetics.[2]

## **5. THE HUMANISTIC NEEDS OF SCULPTURE IN THE NEW ERA**

### ***5.1 The Solidified and Eternal Beauty of Sculpture***

The sculpture will not fade with the passage of times, nor will it darken with the tide. The dignity, simplicity, tranquility and solemnity of ancient Greek sculpture, the irresistible momentum in Michelangelo's works, and the tension and strong emotion in Rodin's sculpture still deeply shock people's hearts even across time and space. Then, people can feel the charm of sculpture art and the eternal beauty of sculpture.

### ***5.2 The Body Beauty Is the Soul of the Beauty of Sculpture Form***

"Form" is the most basic language of sculpture art. Sculpture first expresses color, touch, texture and emotion to the audience from the modeling. Modeling beauty is the blood and flesh of sculpture beauty. Sculpture consists of changing shapes. There are many factors causing this change, including the metaphysics of space and form, cultural functions, material limitations and so on. Qian Shaowu summarizes three views from the perspective of human body beauty: the first is the power of life; second, the principle of body composition beauty is that the more diverse the

interior, the better, and the more unified the exterior; third is the further development of the above two points, and this rich and simple form forms rhythm and artistic conception in their relationship. The ups and downs of various sculpture forms have produced various unforgettable shapes. And it carries the important function of humanistic transmission.

### ***5.3 Unity of Simplicity and Richness***

Compared with other art forms, sculpture has certain limitations. For example, sculpture can not describe the environment of people's activities directly and carefully like that of painting. Except for some relief with plot, sculpture is generally not suitable to directly reproduce the development process of characters and things. Therefore, sculptors need to reflect real life more deeply and comprehensively, and express rich ideological connotation in simple artistic images, so as to achieve the unity of simplicity and richness. Dana once said, "there is no art needing simple temperament, emotion and interest rather than sculpture." For example, the masterpiece of modern French sculptor Rodin, "Meditation", carved the head of a contemplative girl on a rough stone foundation. The neck, shoulder and body were not chiseled out, and a rough stone was retained below, which was confusing without more treatment. According to Rodin, he wanted to focus on the theme of "meditation". Therefore, he had to give up all the irrelevant parts except the face. He believes that the processing and carving of details irrelevant to the theme will damage the refinement of the theme.[3]

### ***5.4 Relieving Mental Stress***

Facing the increasing pressure of life, more and more people live in a tense state of life. Although their economic states continue to improve, their qualities of spiritual life decline. At the same time, people's two-sided emotions interfere with and threaten human health. As a special form of expression, modern sculpture works of art can not only alleviate people's spiritual pressure, but also enable people to obtain inspiration and hint in the aesthetic process. Sometimes they suddenly realize that it helps to cultivate their emotions and stimulate their spirit. In addition, sculptures with different meanings express different ideas and give people with different psychological needs a kind of spiritual care.

### **5.5 Inheriting Humanistic Spirit, History and Culture**

The development of sculpture art has brought people a rich cultural feast. And it is a powerful witness to history and culture. Therefore, from a personalized perspective, sculpture can not only realize the effective inheritance of humanistic spirit, but also make the whole city and residents feel the massiness of history and culture, as well as the combination of traditional culture and modern art, and finally promote the development of humanistic spirit.[4]

## **6. HUMANISTIC CARE OF CHINESE SCULPTURE IN URBAN LIFE**

Modern sculpture art is widely used in social life. This also fully proves that social environment enriches the spiritual enjoyment of urban residents. What is the development direction of urban sculpture?

### **6.1 Sculpture Art Improves the Quality of Urban Cultural Environment**

Under the general trend of economic globalization and marketization, governments at all levels pay special attention to the design and shaping of urban image in order to enhance their internal power and attraction. They take a good image as a huge intangible asset and absorb domestic and foreign capital, technology and talents. It is necessary to recognize the importance of urban sculpture construction and take a positive and steady attitude. In addition, without urban civilization and image characteristics, many cities have the phenomenon of "pan" sculpture, which is one of the manifestations of culture default. With the progress of society, people's requirements for the level of art are constantly improving, especially the working groups engaged in media and public opinion, who have relatively high aesthetic and appreciation. Sculpture and urban construction in the new era are relatively systematic, which is not only reflected in the creation of sculpture art, but also in the improvement of compatibility in all aspects. Finally, a cultural environment for living space will be created.[5]

### **6.2 Sculptor's Cultural Literacy**

A good sculptor has the expressive ability of the sculpture itself, and a deep understanding of the object he wants to create and the content of the

sculpture. Therefore, sculptors should cultivate their cultural literacy in many aspects. They should deeply study history, tradition, contemporary, world, humanities and region, and also cultivate their awareness of environmental protection. In addition, the work of a sculptor is not limited to the sculpture itself. From sculpture to society and then to culture, it is suggested to create meaningful places and beautiful environment, realize the perfect combination of theme, form and environment, and give people cultural care.[6]

## **7. CONCLUSION**

Sculpture is not only a plastic art, but also a cultural product for people. In this unique humanistic environment, it provides human beings with multi-level and all-round cultural care, so that people's spirit has sustenance, sentiment has been cultivated, and culture has been constantly changing and developing. For the space and cultural field of sculpture division, many sculpture artists have explored it, but they have not summarized the metaphysical culture into a system. In the future research work, in addition to gradually improving the space theory of sculpture into a system, it is suggested to carry out more colorful research and exploration in the cultural field of sculpture, so as to provide more moving and better creation to the people.

## **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

Xiaobo Yu contributed to the writing of the paper, and Weichao Zheng is responsible for collecting relevant literature and information.

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