

# Analysis on Watercolor Painting Art Language and Contemporary Watercolor Painting Development

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**Abstract**-Watercolor painting is a painting method with water and transparent paint, which has transparent, green and elegant features. The watercolor painting language is the drawing art of taking “water” and “color” as the media to express the ideology and consciousness. This paper takes watercolor painting art language as the basis to analyze the existing problems of our current watercolor painting development in China, proposing the ideas to solve the problems, in order to put forward the prospects and future of contemporary watercolor painting development.

**Keywords**-watercolor painting art language; contemporary China; watercolor painting development; status; development direction;

## I. INTRODUCTION

The name of watercolor painting in China can date back to Qing Dynasty of Emperor Kangxi and Qianlong, and at that time, the palace document once mentioned “watercolor painting”. Especially after the great efforts of Chinese modern several generations of watercolor painters, Chinese watercolor painting is very obvious, with rich functions and various forms, forming Chinese folk feature, era spirit and individual characteristic style. Especially in the past 30 years, Chinese watercolor painting creation and research has a great progress, attracting people’s attention.

But, Chinese watercolor painting development and people’s cultural spirit pursuit are not adaptable, which still has difference. Through careful scrutiny, the main reason is that watercolor theory research and scientific innovation cannot keep up with the pace of social development requirements. Thus, watercolor painting art language and contemporary Chinese watercolor painting development research are very important, with great significance.

## II. ARTISTIC LANGUAGE OF WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Watercolor painting is greatly favored by people due to its personality. Its obvious feature is to use “water” as the media, mixing the paint, through orderly painting works to express the creators’ ideology and consciousness, with “watercolor” integration, expressing color, so as to produce clear, transparent, moist and smooth effect art,

constructing the specific artistic language of watercolor painting.

### A. Elements of Watercolor Painting Art Language

The art language of watercolor painting uses water, color, model, space, style, topic and internal aesthetic view and other aspects, which mainly reflects in the following aspects.

Water is a basic element of watercolor painting. In watercolor painting creation, water is the indispensable and basic element. The reason is that, first, water is the key part of reducing paint and adjusting brightness and purity. No water is not good, and insufficient water makes the painting dry, not good. Too much water makes the created paint moist and soft, pale painting and model soft and weak. This requires the water of watercolor painting should reflect the feature of wet in dry and dry in wet, thus, it can be real in virtual. Second, water is the important material of paint creation virtual and real relationship and creators’ ideology expression. Color is another basic element of watercolor painting. First, the color of creating watercolor painting has different materials, which are mainly transparent color body and relatively less transparent mineral color body. In creation, every time you add a paint, the color brightness will correspondingly reduce and fade. Also, the weak color covering ability is the limitation of watercolor painting creation, which is the difficult points of watercolor art in creation, and it requires creators to have forecast ability for the painting. Second, in watercolor painting creation, the color expression can be various, and the key is to skillfully grasp the water and creation tool attribute, grasping the two points, so that the created watercolor painting can produce extraordinary effect. Constituting form is also the important part of watercolor painting. In painting creation, watercolor constituting form has importance, and the point, line, surface, color, shape and body in a painting of internal order and rhythm determines its creation effect, which determines the painting art level. In creation, the watercolor painting highlights the view of “form is everything”. Also, it states the relationship between shape and spirit, objectively seeing the relationship between composition, shape and color, so as to make the painting truly reflect the creators’ model ability and unified painting ability, especially the organization shape and key

detail should be in place. Thus, the space atmosphere and era atmosphere of painting can be created, so as to fully display form beauty and modern art beauty.

#### *B. Technology Expression of Watercolor Painting*

With the improvement of human painting technology, modern painting types and classification methods are more and more, according to the main media or material classification, it has ink painting, oil painting, printmaking and painting, etc. No matter which type of art types, it has its own specific art language system. Watercolor painting, due to its special historical origin and internal gene, has a broader art language expression form, in order to display different artistic conceptions. We can make comparison of Chinese lacquer painting as a contrast, and lacquer painting is developed from Chinese thousands of years' lacquer culture development. In its creation process, the mainly used materials are China's "three big" natural lacquer. Lacquer has the advantages of waterproof, alkali resistant and anti-humidity. But as the main media of lacquer painting, it has too much water, thus it is not easy to store and easy to deteriorate. And it is not like gouache, watercolor and ink for easy operation. But due to its material uniqueness, it gives the unique charm of lacquer painting, and in different regions, it has different features and technology skills, but as a whole, it is first used for making lacquer ware, such as Beijing lacquer ware, Yangzhou lacquer ware and Gansu Tianshui lacquer ware.

### III. CONTEMPORARY CHINESE WATERCOLOR PAINTING DEVELOPMENT STATUS

After Chinese watercolor painting experiences the embryonic period, 1930s-1940s to founding period of the first prosperity period, cultural revolution and cultural revolution post-creation recovery period. After the prosperous development period, no matter from creation expression technique, skills or color application, it achieves a great height.

#### *A. Watercolor painting creation content is richer and creation team is constantly growing.*

The wide range and variability of watercolor painting art language give it richer creation content, and it can express landscape, flower, daily life, and it can also be realistic, which attracts other kinds of painting master into watercolor painting creation, and it greatly enriches the art expression form of watercolor painting, full discovering art creation potential, in order to open the flower blooming situation for the development of watercolor painting career.

#### *B. Various watercolor painting exhibitions promote the development of Chinese watercolor painting industry.*

Every year, watercolor painting exhibitions are numerous, which has provincial, city and national watercolor painting exhibitions. Apart from some overseas exhibitions, individual exhibitions and invitation

exhibitions, throughout the history, there are so many watercolor painting exhibitions, and these painting exhibitions have a positive promoting role for people's academic exchanges and prosperous creation.

#### *C. A lot of excellent works with strong creation consciousness have been published, promoting Chinese watercolor painting into maturity.*

When watercolor painting is introduced into China, it is once considered as western art and it is imitated by people, and the creation is too rigid and standard. Now, a group of outstanding watercolor painting masters explore and create many excellent works with strong creation consciousness and local style, promoting Chinese watercolor painting into maturity.

#### *D. The constant prosperity of art market also brings a space for Chinese watercolor painting.*

In recent years, Chinese art market is constantly prosperous, which brings new vitality and power for the development and creation of watercolor painting, and it symbolizes that Chinese watercolor painting enters into a high-speed growth period.

### IV. DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Although Chinese watercolor painting development obtains the great achievement, yet we should clearly know that Chinese watercolor painting still have a great distance with other types of paintings, and it is concept problem. If we want to get rid of this embarrassing situation, we should take efforts from the following aspects.

#### *A. Highlighting original creation habits and trend and giving more flexibility for works.*

When watercolor painting is introduced into China, it is considered as western art and it is imitated, and the creation is too rigid and standard. The reason is that people don't have a clear understanding for watercolor painting, thinking that watercolor painting is the patent of westerners, and it cannot root in China. Only by introducing and imitating can make watercolor painting unchanged. This wrong understanding will naturally bring watercolor painting into a fixed mode, with single topic and technique, out of touch with the times, so that no one is willing to appreciate, and finally it will lose its existing value, so it is thrown by the society. Chinese ink painting is known to all, with a long history. The "admonition scroll" of Gu Kaizhi in Dongjin was once considered as the world's earliest watercolor painting by American famous watercolor painter Charlie. From history, watercolor painting has some origin with Chinese painting types, and the Chinese feature techniques are good in watercolor painting research and development.

*B. Strengthening watercolor painting teaching team construction*

Watercolor painting is used as an independent painting type, and it is connected with other painting types in a certain sense. In painting requirement, it is the same with folk painting and oil painting. Art is from life and from human natural expression. Thus, painting cannot be disconnected with people's life, and it must conform to the mainstream aesthetic view. Otherwise, it cannot be called as "painting", but a decoration. In teaching, we should focus on students' drawing theory and skill cultivation. Also, we should grasp Chinese and western painting features, in order to explore students' artistic perspective and cultivate their creative thinking. On the other hand, teachers are teaching people. Thus, teachers' culture quality will directly influence the cultivation for students.

*C. Only making watercolor painting works into folk print can make traditional culture and modern artistic creation integrate skillfully, in order to effectively promote the constant development of Chinese watercolor painting industry.*

If Chinese watercolor painting works want to be outstanding in the world stage, it should have its own

unique original aesthetic culture and temperament. Chinese traditional culture gives rich gene and broad imagination space for art creation, which is the soul and life source of Chinese art. The national is eternal, which is recognized by the world. Only watercolor painting works are printed with national print, making traditional culture and modern art creation skillfully integrate, in order to effectively promote the constant development of Chinese watercolor painting industry.

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