

# **Value Foundation Application Knowledge--Discussion on Chinese Painting Basic Course Reform by Taking Fine Arts Specialty in Shangluo College as the Example**

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**Keywords:** Chinese painting basic course, Course reform, Knowledge application.

**Abstract:** Chinese painting basic course reform: Chinese painting as a traditional art of Chinese nationality has long history and extensive and profound foundation. College education undertakes the important responsibility of inheriting traditional culture. Chinese painting basic course reform in local colleges should strengthen the systematicness and integrity of theoretical knowledge with knowledge application as the essential target, combine theory with practice to comprehensively improve students' artistic accomplishment so as to adapt to teaching demand and talent cultivation requirement. This article has made analysis on problems in Chinese painting basic course teaching and proposed suggestions on rational reform.

## **1. Introduction**

Chinese painting as a unique branch of world fine arts has presented different art features with western art in terms of its unique tools and technique, and can also present "unity of heaven and man", "learning from nature" and other philosophical thoughts in profound Chinese traditional culture. Chinese painting as the essence of Chinese traditional culture has been inherited for more than 2000 years. "Transmission and imitation" in "Xie He's six method theory" describes to imitate excellent works of ancient people and learn from legacy. For Chinese painting learning and inheritance, the tradition of transmission and imitation has been followed. Firstly, learners should start from imitation and study the language constitution and key technique of Chinese painting, organized the development process for innovation, added their own experience to establish own style. So there were a lot of painters in different dynasties in China but few could develop a school of their own to become masters. Chinese painting has undergone external and internal effect during the development course, and started its reform path from external to internal. Chinese painting learning is more difficult as ancient people's mind cannot be observed by modern people with modern thinking. Only transmission and imitation cannot be truly achieved, let alone to be vivid. More importantly, young generation learners have received western style education and Chinese painting so that they have limited understanding of Chinese painting skills and connotation. So Chinese painting teaching should be reformed on practical basis.

## **2. Analysis on the current condition of Chinese painting basic course in Fine Arts specialty in Shangluo College**

Take Chinese painting basic course in Fine Arts specialty in Shangluo College, "Basic of Chinese Painting", short class, zero-based students and complicated Chinese painting basic skill contents, and the teaching difficulty make teachers and students feel great pressure.

### **2.1 Short class period, heavy task and unreasonable course system**

Take 2013 grade fine arts as example, the course "Basic Chinese Painting" lasting 50 hours including 12 hours theoretical class, 38 hours practice class, 10 classes for line drawing flowers and birds skill learning, 28 classes for fine brush flower-and-bird painting learning. In 2014 grade, new talent cultivation scheme has cut down the basic course into 48 hours for highlighting main course

including 18 hours theoretical course and 30 hours practice course. The advantage of theoretical course is solid arrangement of Chinese painting theory to make students understand the art features of imitating works by combining with imitation practice to cultivate their ability to appreciate traditional Chinese painting. But the insufficiency of total class period is not good for students' specialty study. It requires a large amount of practice learning so as to make practice perfect and apply flexibly.

To ensure students' mastery of specialty professional practice skills, teachers in Chinese painting course group have enlarged the imitation task quantity and quality requirement in teaching practice through discussion and research. It can help students to achieve teaching requirement through high-intensity practice, but there still exist shortcomings: 1. High-intensity practice make students feel tired and bored. 2. Learning level is limited to imitation technique but lack of life experience to cause stereotype as Chinese painting aesthetic concept is highly extraction and sublimation of reality. Deviation of observation and sketching of real nature is just like building castle in the air with no vivid manifestation object.

## **2.2 Out-dated teaching concept and insufficient teaching content**

Required by Chinese painting basic course program, all practice courses are used for imitating excellent flower and birds painting in Song Dynasties as painting in Song dynasty is the highest standard of meticulous flowers-and-birds painting. With the development of times, Chinese painting has new development and innovation. Teaching contents remaining in traditional aesthetic stage will limit students' professional development and students would feel hard. This problems is obviously reflected in the graduation creation in recent years. Students feel hard to start when converting reality to art works so that they usually choose make-up imitation to replace creation. It is meaningless for art skill learning without art creation. This shows that our teaching concept should be further reformed and teaching content should be expanded.

## **2.3 Narrow teaching ideology and single teaching method**

"Teaching and learning are never opposite. Teachers and students should be in close relationship for mutual cooperation and promotion. Teachers should not stand still and refuse to make progress, and even use a teaching program for decades or use just one teaching method any time. Teachers should impart knowledge and solve problems. Students have changed greatly, we should change according to the times and students' own characteristics. Students are active in thinking and fond of fashion. Traditional Chinese painting emphasizes poetic imagery beauty. "Painters create a certain artistic conception with emotional appeal and spiritual realm while observing things and nature." So only traditional teaching method and means cannot attract students to experience the beauty of artistic conception or satisfy their current demand.

## **3. Exploration of Chinese painting basic course in Fine Arts specialty in Shangluo College**

According to the requirement of our school to cultivate application oriented plan, we need to cultivate students who can flexibly apply their professional skills. Our special courses should be reformed under the guidance of this guideline. The teaching content and method of "Basic of Chinese Painting" course will be further reformed under its guidance by extensive and deep exploration and attempt of imitation skill learning.

### **3.1 Expand thinking, create atmosphere and strengthen students' understanding of Chinese traditional art features**

During teaching process, we need to understand the mutual existent relationship between skills and aesthetic awareness in professional quality cultivation. Chinese traditional art has bright feature of cultural connotation, with common with each other, deep rooted in China's traditional philosophic thinking such as traditional literature, music and aesthetics with common aesthetic experience and aesthetic pursuit. To deepen students' understanding and cognition of traditional culture, we should never be limited to fine arts learning but learn to expand thinking and creating atmosphere in basic stage, encourage students to profoundly experience the charm of Chinese traditional arts. For

example, our main learning content is to imitate flowers and birds in Song Dynasty, so the cultural environment and literature work, and understanding of other artwork can deepening students' understanding of cultural art features of Song Dynasty, improve aesthetic level, help imitation practice learning, and profoundly experience the artistic pursuit of art work, understand the relationship between technique and style so as to mobilize student's learning enthusiasm, cultivate comprehensive art accomplishment, and establish national pride and confidence based on understanding traditional cultural understanding.

So in practical teaching, using multi-media teaching method, mine up picture, audio teaching to carry out more direct teaching and guide students' interest in traditional Chinese painting so as to get into learning status more actively. We arrange students to appreciate excellent Chinese folk music so that students can appreciate and experience the beauty and flexibility of Chinese painting line from melodies. Appreciate ancient people's poems, and experience the elegance and delicacy of traditional Chinese realistic painting. The seemingly simple arrangement actually is of great significance which does not increase teaching task but relieve students' pressure in strict skill learning to play a two folded effective role for course implementation.

### **3.2 Expand vision and learn about the current development status of Chinese painting**

"Social development and time change make the development of Chinese painting with same time feature. The development of Chinese painting has absorbed the style characteristic of other paintings and established multi-angle and multi-level exploration development situation and show a rich appearance with time aesthetic characteristic and painter's individual artistic pursuit. "Students' object of learning should not be limited to traditional painting artwork stage."

In China's painting basic teaching, while imitating traditional excellent works, we should choose modern and contemporary excellent works for appreciation and imitation learning. Use multi-media, network, books, exhibition and other means to help students understand the influence and promotion of modern civilization on Chinese traditional culture so that students can understand the concept of knowledge application and relationship between inheritance and innovation so that they can establish confidence and develop interest for Chinese painting main course learning in the future and lay solid foundation for professional creation technically and mentally.

While teaching, different art practice activities can be carried out. Now, with the increasing printing technology, masterpiece analysis and imitated works can be found conveniently with insufficient printing technologies and artistic infection. To help students profoundly experience the artistic charm of Chinese painting, we should arrange and organize art exhibition, professional symposiums and painter's interview for students to learn methods, broaden artistic vision and cultivate art appreciation ability. In this way, they can smoothly complete course teaching task, and improve their artistic accomplishment and even play a leading role for students' future development.

### **3.3 Multi-level, multi-angle and repeated theoretical knowledge learning**

With long history, Chinese painting is complicated in relic remains. There are a large amount of masterpieces and theoretical knowledge of Chinese traditional painting. Chinese painting theories in ancient time are experience summarized by painters in long-term creation practice. Imitation study of ancient painting cannot be separated with researches on ancient theories. But in classroom, students usually ignored theoretical knowledge learning and teachers also reduced the instruction of theories of painting.

Through several years' teaching practice, we know theoretical knowledge is of great significance for students' practical teaching. So it is necessary to use different teaching methods such as instruction, exemplification, and discussion method so as to strengthen theoretical knowledge learning in different levels, perspectives and times.

### **3.4 Enter into nature and practice comprehensive learning ability**

Chinese painting as a visual art should also improving skills. For art skill learning, the cultivation should be in three aspects: observational ability, analytical ability and expressive ability. Highly mature modeled features have determined the tradition that Chinese painting study starts from

learning the expression methods, i.e. learn various techniques during imitation and apply practice. "Cultivation and training of artistic expression should not be limited to interior imitation, but go to nature and observe the origin of techniques through observation so as to deeply experience the necessity and artistry of traditional techniques.

Ancient people focuses on accumulation. Sketching is more important image accumulation process. Vivid image can help people to understand the art features of the imitation object. It is reflected in Chinese painting basic course reform. Teachers can use all available natural source to lead students get into nature, observe the real view of flowers and birds, experience the expressive force of art, take practice, combine imitation work to experience the formation process and methods of art image. By doing so, learning objective can be clarified through imitation and sketching. Students can feel easier in sketching and complete teaching task better. Secondly, they can develop their interest and confidence during the process of observation and sketching, which can lay foundation for their further development.

### **3.5 Teaching achievement demonstration, strengthen communication, and improve confidence for specialty learning**

Artistic behavior refers to human activities to display technique and communicate thoughts. People can find themselves and improve themselves during the process of communication. Students should improve art appreciation ability and confident of specialty learning during communication. So holding Chinese painting basic course achievement exhibition for students to demonstrate their works can help students have pressure and motivation to learn. Successful exhibition can help students increase confidence and express their understanding of Chinese painting for mutual communication and learning. They can receive more professional guidance during the exhibition process so as to open up a path of hope for their specialty development.

## **4. Conclusion**

Transformation means the state combines with the new change to develop talent structure in current economic society to make significant strategic decision on local college reform. The target of local fine arts talent cultivation is to cultivate application-oriented talents who can adapt to local economic cultural construction and local economic cultural construction. Shangluo College as the place of application oriented practical undergraduate college should transform to foundation education and highlight normal feature and establish talent cultivation direction. Fine arts specialty has made bold exploration and practice to improve talent cultivation quality. Chinese painting basic course reform should make students deeply experience the painting language of Chinese painting from textbook to real object, from practice to exhibition so as to better understand the art features of Chinese painting and innovate the methods of line drawing and traditional Chinese realistic painting creation, and create art works really suitable for aesthetic requirements by the society and the times, and achieve the teaching objective of cultivating application oriented talents.

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