

# The Contemporary Value of the Humanistic Spirit of Chinese Watercolor Painting

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**Abstract.** The so-called humanistic spirit is the affirmation of human existence value, is the reason why people become a symbol and carrier of human spirit. Art is the external reflection and expression of the human spiritual world in some form. Art can reveal human dignity, emotion, happiness and freedom, and represent the value and significance of human existence. The greatest value of artistic works lie in the depiction of intangible things in a concrete form. This kind of thing can be an attitude, a kind of thinking, a kind of experience, or even a kind of inheritance. Chinese watercolor painting has its own unique artistic temperament, which is rich in the humanistic value of national character. In the new historical period, Chinese watercolor painting, which is under the guidance of the spirit of the times, shows the value of self in the a vibrant state of life.

## Introduction

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, with the exchange of Eurasian culture, the watercolor painting was brought into China by Italian painter Lang Shining. Watercolor painting, with water as medium and pigment, belongs to the category of Western painting. Due to watercolor painting is water paint on paper painting fusion, especially the characteristics of writing without regret, and is quite close with ink painting in China. Perhaps it is because of this kind of similarity, so watercolor painting from the date of entering China has a feeling of regret. Since then it life plants and rises abruptly. Since twentieth Century, watercolor painting has made remarkable achievements in the development of China, and has formed a Chinese watercolor painting with Chinese characteristics. It has gradually entered a new stage in the selection of subject matter, the form of expression, the production and the effect of performance.

Any art originate is derived life, but is higher than life, water color is no exception. It and oil painting, prints, Chinese painting and other forms of art, are human feelings and expressions of life. They are all the ultimate problems in the quest of art. Watercolor gradually from the original beautiful sketch, portable sketches and drafts, and slowly evolved into a modern art category and artistic expression method.

The attention and refraction of artistic creation is often the spiritual aspect of human beings. At present, the economic and social development of our country continues to develop rapidly, and the material living standard of people has been greatly improved. But at the same time, we should also see that new social contradictions followed. The problems of unbalance of regional development, uneven distribution of income and cultural differences have led to the increasingly prominent contradictions in social norms, social fairness, social belief and other fields. The social mentality of anxiety, justice deficiency, revenge and others also plagued spiritual world of people. Many people are anxious and hesitate in their study, work, life and interpersonal communication. The social problems caused by urgent success and narrow extreme are common. The problems of social mentality and the people's spiritual have aroused the high attention of the people with breadth of vision. Many artists have also made a loud appeal, and have made a fruitful exploration in both theory and practice based on the professional director .

## The Social Value Demand of Contemporary Chinese Watercolor Painting

The development of art and the evolution of social life in a sense are processes of mutual dependence and selection. Nowadays, the division of labor is becoming more and more meticulous, and the

competition is becoming increasingly fierce. Unwittingly, the cadence of life and work accelerate abruptly, which brought many drawbacks to the social life of people. In the big context of social division of labor, the requirement of professional manipulation ability and professional knowledge are increasing. It leads to the one-sided development of the human knowledge system, and people's understanding of things is prone to extremes. Secondly, the advent of the machine age makes social contacts between people fade away. The perceptual contact between people is replaced by the sense of distance, and the decrease of emotional communication leads to the imperfect development of human nature and the deficiency of the personality. Again, people in the fierce competition environment aggravated the possibility of contradiction. The conflict of interests undermines the simplicity and trust of the traditional human relationship ecological chain. The relationship between people are confused and uneasy because of being driven by interests.

Since the 90s of last century, this state has been accelerating, and Chinese society is experiencing unprecedented development and change since the First Opium War. The transformation from traditional society to modern society not only brings a thriving track for the development of the country, but also brings spasmodically secret anguish. In contrast to tradition and transformation, conservatism and breakthroughs, agriculture and industry, rural areas and towns, people are hovering in the choice, thinking in hovering and moving forward in thinking again and again. What kind of life do we need? What kind of human nature do we need to maintain? This is both an abstract philosophical proposition and a realistic humanistic thinking.

People urgently need a sense of fulfillment and happiness, such as baby to wait for feeding urgently. While the artist is creating the first filter themselves in the process, and then creating artistic works with "yearning for people". It can not only impress people, but also move the viewer and become pabulum. So art is not created for itself, but for society from its origin. The Chinese watercolor painting is the product of the watercolor painting sinicization, its form of expression, the content of creation and so on are closely related to every link of the economy and society. As a creators of Chinese watercolor, the personality is not an isolated individual. The themes and materials of his creation must have strong appeal of the times flatus and humanistic spirit. In all kinds of thoughts wash downs, all kinds of conflicts between the value orientation of social change, Chinese watercolor painter are combined with the art of watercolor painting with Chinese traditional philosophical way of thinking in a calm and special perspective. They also look at this increasingly impetuous society. They awaken people's deep pursuit of truth, love and understanding, and explore the meaning of life with artistic methods.

### **The Humanistic Spirit of Contemporary Chinese Watercolor Painting**

Chinese traditional culture is a direct study of the spiritual level which is compared with the expression of the western art forms on the humanistic spirit. Both the use of freehand brushwork and the outline of the relationship between man and nature, all show a strong national color. They are empty and pale, without losing rigorous and deep; or write freely and concisely, ethereal yet infinitely, without losing heavy gravity; or reticent and leisurely tactfully, without being exquisite, free and easy. They often direct to the theme. The humanistic spirit of contemporary Chinese watercolor painting is mainly embodied in the following three aspects:

**Seek "truth".** The reality of contemporary Chinese watercolor painting is embodied in sincerity, honest and gospel.

The watercolor painting belongs to a kind of Western painting, which is essentially a realism category. Chinese contemporary watercolor painting not only inherited the style characteristics of Western watercolor realism, but also absorbed the Chinese painting to get the characteristics of ink changes, color flow, and theme then writing through the treatment of light and shade and the method of focus perspective. In the process of creation, Chinese contemporary watercolor painters strive to be their true perception of the present life, through appreciate the sentiment, and then use technology to make it shown in the painting. So as to achieve the effect of soul-heart integration and heart-thing integration.

The process of watercolor painting sinicization is the best art form which is combined with

Western art form, traditional Chinese culture, and the Chinese humanism in the contemporary era. It can be said to be the best experimental art sinicization. For different art schools and art forms, contemporary Chinese watercolor painting is constantly learning from the experience of broad and sincere mind, improving in learning, breaking the shackles of traditional concepts and skills, then boldly practicing and striding forward. As the painter Li Keran said, painting should go in with the greatest strength and attack with the greatest courage. We should learn and inherit the ancients and foreign excellent technology for our own use. The development of contemporary Chinese watercolor painting is admitted the writing method of Chinese traditional painting based on the original foundation. It combines the two painting methods into the creation of watercolor painting, and forms a unique "Chinese style" characteristics of watercolor painting.

Any excellent artistic work is a profound reflection of social life. The Chinese watercolor painting reveals the objective law of the development of things through a typical artistic image and reflects the origin of the social life. Through artistic activities, we can deepen our own understanding of society and even the understanding of natural science. Chinese watercolor painting is an artist's analysis and display of social phenomena on the basis of social life. It also is the identification of the truth. Painters experience life and society in the process of creation, analyze them calmly and rationally, and finally unconsciously convey the exploration of truth to the appreciators in the form of works.

**Abound in "emotion".** Since ancient times, truly excellent artistic works always bring profound things to us, which often make people feel moved and excited, produce vision and praise, and arouse the audience's spiritual resonance. The factor of "emotion" in contemporary Chinese watercolor painting can be divided into two parts, one is the personal feelings that creators pour into their works, and the other is the real feelings revealed in the works. They are interrelated and inseparable, and together constitute the emotional framework of contemporary Chinese watercolor painting. Personal feelings exist in the inner, which is the basis for the feelings expression in the works; The emotion of the works exists in the outside, which is the extension and expression of personal feelings.

Everyone needs emotional and energy inputs when dealing with everything. Human social activities are the same. Art activities are no exception. Emotion refers to the form of mental consciousness, such as pleasure, anger, sorrow, joy and so on. And it reflects the subjective attitude of a person to a certain object or phenomenon in the outside world. In the creation of works, emotion is the spiritual source of the creators. Emotions come from the accumulation and perception of life and practice. It is impossible for a creator without personal guidance to create a work. Similarly, although the work is a materialized idea, concept and thinking, but it has its own emotional language. Screen layout, color use, form, techniques and so on are all to express this kind of emotions. In some ways, these factors are the carrier of emotion. Every watercolor contains rich inner and external emotions, and there is no watercolor without emotion.

**Merge into the "state".** State is a highly abstract complex, often give a person a kind of boundless, but with no reality whatever, and like the feeling with extreme ease. The state is actually the relationship between you and the outside world. Chinese people have a long history standing of perception of "state". Public opinions are divergent. Its origin is unable to agree on which is right. According to historical records, "state" as an aesthetic concept which was determined during the late Tang and Five Dynasties. In this period, a large number of poetic literati were active in the field of painting. In their practice of painting, they advocated the idea of returning to simplicity and nature, paid attention to the expression of individuality, emphasized the wanton wielding of subjective will and despised the meaningless reproduction of natural scenery. They had made an almost infatuated exploration and attempted at the "state". Since then, the "state" had led the aesthetic standards of Chinese painting circles. In traditional Chinese paintings, it is often possible to online like a whirlwind scattering wisps of clouds and full of daring with a few pens. It can also depict the exquisite and tactful morbidezza with the magnificent pencraft. These are inextricably linked to the traditional humanistic spirit and philosophical thinking of China for thousands of years. The use of blank in contemporary Chinese watercolor shows the humanistic and philosophical thinking of the Chinese as "The moon waxes only to wane".

Although the "state" is illusory, it is not the wood without root, nor the water without a source. The

humanistic spirit is the fertile soil for the growth of the "state", and the "truth" and "emotion" are the foundation of the sublimation.

### **The Historical Mission of Contemporary Chinese Watercolor Painting**

Art is a special form of social life. It is the embodiment of the life ultimate significance, and is a great and simple belief. Art is often thinking about such a problem, what is the fundamental sign of human beings, and this is a very original question. In this era of light and shadow floating and thought flowing rhythm, such a primitive and common sense problem can make people become sober and tranquil in impetuosity. Only when we have in-depth thinking and a clear understanding of this issue, we can wash the lead in the floating shades and survive in the original way of human beings.

We should give full play to the cognitive function, the organizational function, the aesthetic function and the teaching function of the contemporary Chinese watercolor painting. We are going to teach the public to look at social diversity and human life in terms of artistic understanding. As Chernyshevsky said, art has an additional function besides reproducing life, which is to show life. The successful artistic works, while expressing their own thoughts and feelings, can also arouse the sympathy of the appreciators. Under the organizational function of art, the appreciators and artists are integrated so that the person who feels that he appreciates the works is not what people have created, but thinks that everything expressed in this work is what he wanted to express earlier. The high agreement of this thought makes art a bridge and link to the world of human spirit. It plays an irreplaceable role in inspiring national consciousness and fostering social sentiment. Under the artistic aesthetic function, the artist not only creates the image of truth, goodness and beauty, but also shapes the fake and evil. In this way, they can play a role of cultivating people's thinking and enhancing people's non-discrimination ability in sharp contrast.

The development road of contemporary Chinese watercolor painting should be concentrated their efforts in "true", "emotion" and "state". We should creatively push forward the development of Chinese watercolor with a integrity , scientific and realistic attitude, and with a passion for creating time to wait, and with a full psychosis. Let the social function of Chinese watercolor serve the people, serve the society and serve our original intention. Let it show the flashpoint of the times in the artistic language, trace to its source, temper forward, eventually reach the other side of the soul beyond the reality.

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