Innovation and Application of Sino-Russian Culture and Art Communication in Fine Art Education for Children—A Case of the Innovative Mode of Fine Art Education for Children in “Sino-Russian Twin Cities”

Fen LI, Yan ZHANG
Heihe University, Heihe, Heilongjiang, China
29138079@qq.com

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Abstract. In recent years, with the prosperous development of Sino-Russian culture and art, Russian fine art education resources for children have been introduced by Heihe fine art education researchers and experts by taking the geographic advantage. Depending on the regional advantage formed over many years in the fundamental fine art education for children, a cooperation and innovation platform for Sino-Russian fine art education has been established gradually. Through the introduction of innovative modes of local fine art education by elites from Heihe children-oriented fine art education circle, it is to promote the effective experience in cooperation and innovation of Sino-foreign fine art education for children, thus opening a new way for the innovation and promotion of the fine art education mode for children in China.

Introduction

For more than 400 years, China has established high-quality good-neighbor relationship with Russia along with the formation of all-around, multi-layer and high-level historic relations pattern. In recent years, with the frequent exchange of official culture and art by the two countries, folk culture exchange is becoming increasingly active. Through the reciprocal visit by senior leaders as well as the organization of national year, language year, tourist year, cultural year and other activities, the culture and art exchange between China and Russia has reached an unprecedented level. In the background of vigorously advocating “One Belt One Road” and reviving the northeast China along with the prosperous development of Sino-Russian culture and art, Heihe, a city known as “Sino-Russian twin cities” together with Blagoveshchensk of Russia, conforms to the times development. A batch of new education experts and researchers from the children fine art education circle are developed. They seize the opportunity and dare to make innovations about the children fine art education mode, thus gradually exploring a unique way for the cooperation, innovation and development of Sino-Russian fine art.

Explore to Continue the New Chapter for Sino-Russian Culture and Art Exchange

Strengthening the exchange and communication is the footstone that establishes the common development of Sino-Russian culture and art, which is especially meaningful for the children-oriented fine art education circle of Heihe, a city located in the north China and is only a river away from the third largest city of Russia, Blagoveshchensk. How to make use of the geologic advantages and introduce Russian children fine art education resources, and how to make use of the regional advantages formed over many years about fundamental fine art education for children in Heihe in order to establish the Sino-Russian fine art education cooperation and innovation platform have become two major problems faced by Heihe children fine art education. Through careful researches, experts and scholars from Heihe children fine art education circle seize the opportunity of culture and art exchange along with reality orientation and innovation, so as to promote the multi-level communication and cooperation for the Sino-Russian children fine art education. The
superior geological environment has facilitated the excellent tradition of communication by children of the two cities with fine art language. Approved by Heihe Ministry of Education, organized by Heihe Sino-Russian Teenage Activity Center, and participated by middle schools, primary schools and kindergartens of Heihe city, activities that aim to enhance the Sino-Russian culture and art communication and cooperation have been held in the two cities. From 2011 to 2012, the “Art Show of Children from China, Japan, Russia and South Korea” was organized in the friendship palace of Heihe, the children painting show of “fairy stories” was held in Russia, and the exchange activity with Russian and Haba teenagers and children was held in Heihe Teenager Activity Center. From 2013 to 2015, organized by Heihe Sino-Russian Teenager Activity Center, students and core members from several primary schools of Heihe went to Russia to participate in activities about Sino-Russian children theme work show including “landscape near the hometown”, “celebration for the 70th anniversary of fascist war”, and “the beautiful nature”. From 2010 to 2016, supported by the Ministry of Culture of China and Heilongjiang government, Heihe government organized seven terms of “Sino-Russian Culture Integration” activity, through which, deeper national affection has been cultivated between Chinese people and Russian people. Meanwhile, positive achievements have been made in terms of strengthening the sense of cultural identity and prompting art exchange. During the activity, children and teachers of the two countries have personally experienced the artistic differences and common points of the two nations through artistic exchange. At the same time, outstanding fine art teachers from middles schools and primary schools are selected to visit Haba State University of Humanities and take part in international art exchange activities like “Modern Art Festival of China, Russia and South Korea”. Via a series of Sino-Russian culture and art exchange activities, workers of Heihe children-oriented fine art education circle have gradually explored a new cooperation mode of Sino-Russian children fine art education, that is, “lead in”, “go out”, and “mutual integration”. The teaching concept, teaching content and cultivation schemes of public schools and interest-oriented classes are updated continuously. By adhering to the school running principle of focusing on innovation, Heihe children fine art education has obtained significant achievements through years of development. Fine art courses have been open not only in primary schools and middle schools, instead, various forms of fine art cultivation and innovation modes are developed, such as the Sino-Russian Teenager Activity Center, Public Art Palace, off-school classes, art quality education and training schools, and fine art enhancement classes. Since Russian teachers are hired for face-to-face teaching and Russian children art materials are introduced actively, the fine art education quality and development level for children in Heihe manage to grow fast, especially in the area of characteristic education of fine art.

Facilitating the Sino-Russian Culture and Art Exchange and Children-Oriented Fine Art Education Development via Co-Construction

Over more than a decade, the fine art education circle of Heihe seizes the conductive opportunity of multi-level culture and art cooperation between China and Russia. By introducing the Russian fine art teaching system, Russian teachers, Russian courses and teaching materials, and learning advanced teaching modes and teaching methods from Russia, effective sharing of Sino-Russian children fine art education resources has been realized to some extent. Through the study on the source of Sino-Russian culture and art exchange, experts and scholars from Heihe children fine art education circle have got a clear understanding about the current situation, maintain and further expand the fine art teaching communication and cooperation with Russia. They take the Sino-Russian culture and art exchange as an important carrier and inherent driving force to enhance the bilateral cooperation of fine art education of the two countries. Through the innovative mind and special strategic eyesight, it is determined to expanding the cooperative platform of Sino-Russian fine art continuously, thus enhancing the connotation, breadth and depth of culture and art exchange. Meanwhile, fine art education workers in Heihe pay much attention to their own culture and art ability, so they visit Russia for fine art education learning many times annually through self-supporting or designation. From the culture and art exchange perspective, they keep promoting
the development of innovation modes of children fine art education. With many years of efforts, Heihe children fine art education workers have established strong cooperation and co-construction relations with Blagoveshchensk Teenager Palace, Russian Amur Fine Art School, and Blagoveshchensk State Normal University. Study and exchange activities for Sino-Russian teenagers have been held many times, and exhibitions have been organized in Heilongjiang along with the publishing. Through diverse forms of Sino-Russian cultural exchange and communication, Heihe children fine art education manages to obtain rich results in discipline development and cultivation modes. Teachers’ teaching level and scientific research level have been improved dramatically, and they have got favorable performance in the teaching skill evaluation of primary school and middle school fine art teachers. Furthermore, precious opportunities have been provided for expanding teenagers and children’s creation vision.

**Exploring New Directions for the Fine Art Education and Cultivation Modes for Children Through Cooperative Innovation and Application**

Throughout the development process of Heihe children-oriented fine art education, “Focusing on practicability, innovation and application” can be seen as a tenet that boosts the development of fine art education and cultivation modes for children. Seeking for variation is critical for art. Fine art, as an important part of the art category, also has the characteristic of seeking for novelty and variation. For the purpose of cultivating students’ innovative thinking and practical ability, workers from the Heihe children fine art circle have been committed to reforming the fine art teaching method, which is a fundamental problem that determines the fine art discipline development and construction. Through the in-depth analysis for the Russian fine art education mode and teaching method, teaching reform projects titled “Comparison, Reference-Based Study and Practice of Sino-Russian Fine Art Teaching Methods”, “Development and Application of Teaching Resources about Russian Applied Art Courses”, and “Comparative Study on Sino-Russian Children Fine Art Education” have been carried out by fine art teachers from primary schools and middle schools, art teachers from Sino-Russian Teenager Activity Center and public art palaces, and teachers from off-school classes, and the historical source that lead to the superior Russian fine art education is actively explored. According to the comparative research, experts from Heihe children fine art education circle have determined their teaching methods, that is, giving full play to the fine art specialty and adding the application of practical exploration method in teaching. Unlike previous practical teaching ways, it is more effective for the development of students’ self-exploring study ability. Based on partial original art practice teaching content, more extensive art practice teaching directions have been opened, such as the pottery classes, innovative handwork classes, and Chinese ink painting classes. Relying on the fine art discipline advantage of the only college of the city, Heihe University, Heihe is actively strengthening the co-construction and cooperation with Heihe University in terms of fine art. Teachers from the fine art and design schools of Heihe University are invited to give public welfare lectures in fine art classes of middles schools and primary schools as well as the teenager palace. Meanwhile, depending on the excellent achievements that have been obtained through the Sino-Russian cooperation in school running by the fine art and design school in recent years, and depending on the high-quality education platform of the art experiment teaching center of Heihe University, the fine art practice ability of teenagers and children in Heihe has been further enhanced. Theme work shows of children such as “caring for stay-at-home children” and “scientific and technological fantasy” have been held successfully in the fine art and design school of Heihe University, so that more and more students can receive extensive guidance outside the campus, complete fine art practical tasks, and try more innovative art work. As a result, a new chapter for the children-oriented fine art practical teaching development in Heihe will certainly be open.

Through years of hard work, Heihe children-oriented fine art education has become a key bond promoting the communication and cooperation of the Sino-Russian culture and art field, which helps to create a special brand of children-oriented fine art education in north China. Through the Sino-Russian culture and art exchange and cooperation, Heihe has become an important part for the
regional construction and cultural development of Heilongjiang in terms of the innovation and application of children-oriented fine art education modes.

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