Analysis of the Differences in Eastern and Western Painting
Performance and the Reasons

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Abstract. Eastern and western painting have obvious differences in the style of writing, techniques, artistic language and painting materials. Chinese painting has a distinctive national character and pay attention to the expression of the heart of the pictures or ideas in the most direct and intuitive way. And western painters often reflect the inner feelings through the objective portrayal.

1. Introduction

One of the obvious characteristics of Chinese painting is the intuition and necessity, one of the reasons is the special techniques of Chinese painting. Chinese painters are not like western oil painters in painting, they usually understand the image in the heart, and then do not hesitate to paint, or use color rendering, or use the ink and shading ink, It can be said that the technique of Chinese painting is the creation of the intuitive talent of the Chinese nation. Western painting mostly emphasizes the objectivity, it has a significant difference in the creation techniques and artistic language with Chinese painting. This paper will analyze the differences of eastern and western painting from the perspective of artistic language, painting materials and expressive subject matter, and explore the reasons for the differences from three aspects, such as geographical location, cultural concept and thinking mode.

2. Difference of eastern and western painting

2.1 The difference of eastern and western painting in the artistic language

Oriental painting takes "line" as the main artistic language, use the merits of the line, the thickness to show the degree of expression and aesthetic feeling. Mi Fu used to evaluate that Wu Daozi use the lines in painting as "water shield bar", think this kind of line shape such as pandan thickening, forming a wavy line which can show the high, side, deep, oblique, roll, fold, float, lift, and so on the complex changes of the characters drapery. Thus, the lines play an important artistic language in Chinese painting. While the west take the color, face, contour, volume as the artistic language, therefore, western painting is mostly rich in color, the outline is clear, geometric effect and three-dimensional sense is very obvious [1].

2.2 The difference of eastern and western painting in the painting materials

Chinese painting is short of "traditional Chinese painting", is our country traditional painting style, is using the brush, ink and Chinese painting pigment as the material, painting on paper and silk. Mr Osvald Siren once said, "the brush can be as thin as a blade, and can be as broad as a broom. The hand that controls this tool is not on paper, but on the wrist free movement, because the medium used is thin liquid ink or watercolor, so even the slightest pressure will be reflected in the brush marks.[2]" Thus, the widely used painting materials in Chinese painting are brush, ink and watercolor, therefore, the painting color is clear, simple, the screen is empty, witty, impressionistic effect is good. Such as the Chu tomb on silk painting in the warring States period, in tombs of Han Dynasty in Mawangdui, Wang Wei's "snow brook","Wangchuan Tu" and"Jinan floating life", Wang Mian's "ink plum" Yun Shouping's "water lotus".
Western painting is mostly oil painting, color is bright and shiny, this is because the oil painting is painted with the pigment from the drying oil, so it is most easy to mix colors and it can get the smooth, chiseled effect of the line. And the standard consistency of oil paints is the butter-like delicate paste, painting can use a pen and a flexible palette knife, usually painted on the taut linen canvas, the finished oil painting often over the oil. In the 11th century, western painting used oil to paint, and the painting of oil painting on the shelf painting is from the 15th century tempera painting techniques, when using the egg yolk instead of oil. In the 16th century, Venice first used oil painting as the basic material of painting, since then, oil painting has been the most common painting method on the easel.

2.3 The difference of eastern and western painting in the expressive subject matter

Chinese painting often takes the landscape, figure, paintings, flowers, animals and insects as the theme, in the landscape painting, the most representative of the castle peak green water, ink landscape, gold green mountains and waters, with natural mountains as the object, reflects the pursuit of nature and the pursuit of the artistic conception beauty. Figure painting is mostly mythological or historical figures, such as “King of the son of the Send”, “A plan to marry a younger sister” and “the spring party of lady guo-guo”. The most favorite flowers of Chinese painters include plum blossoms, orchid, bamboo, chrysanthemum, peony, lotus, and so on, and the flowers, birds, fish and insects are closely related. For example, in the "golden pheasant graph" of Song Huizong, there are elegant hibiscus flowers, beautiful golden pheasant and a pair of dancing butterflies, the whole painting is bright in color, harmonious and complete, and elegant and noble style. In the late Ming dynasty and early Qing dynasty, the painter Chen hongshou was good at painting figures, ladies, landscapes and flowers, birds, fish and insects. His characters are magnificent, exaggerated, and painted flowers and birds throughout this distinctive character, such as the "mandarin duck picture of lotus", it is magic, composition novel and unique. His landscape painting is also quite decorative flavor, strange and free and easy, sui generis. This shows that the theme of Chinese painters can not be separated from the landscape, figure and flowers, birds, fish and insects, which reflects the people's advocation of nature and the pursuit of artistic conception.

The theme of western painting pays more attention to life, especially since the renaissance and religious reform, the theme of the works is mainly in ancient Greek mythology and biblical stories, such as Da Vinci’s “The Last Supper”, Raphael’s “Sistine Madonna” and “madonna with the siskin”, This not only reflects the western people's pursuit of humanism, freedom and democracy, but also reflects the promotion of religious culture in western countries.

3. The reason for the difference of eastern and western painting

3.1 The difference of geographical location between China and the west

China has experienced five thousand years of development history, is a traditional agricultural power, the Yangtze river and Yellow river not only promoted the stable development of the natural economy, but also bred a humble, introspective and conservative river civilization. Western countries are attached to the sea, the sea climate is clear, nourishing the open ocean civilization, therefore, the western maritime trade is developed, the people are full of adventurism, optimism and pragmatic spirit, which has an important influence on the development of the aesthetic temperament and rational thinking of western painting [3].

3.2 The difference of cultural concept between China and the west

China is deeply influenced by Confucianism and Buddhism and Taoism, and advocate humility and tolerance, which can be summed up as "all rivers run into sea". Throughout the traditional Chinese painting works, we can see that many excellent works embody the syncretism of three religions, the artistic conception of Zen and non-action consciousness, for example, the works of Wu Daozi in the Tang dynasty, "The five holy charts", "King of the son of the Send" and "The disguised form of
hell” proved this point. In the Song dynasty, Yan Yu once said "the voice of the sky, the color of the phase", think that the similarity from the painting is taken from the void, once the painting is dyed, it will fluttering of the wings, which reflects a "unity of heaven and man" concept. Chinese painters also pay more attention to the artistic conception and charm of painting.

Since ancient times, the western people have conquered the spirit of desire and resistance, advocating hero and chivalry, pursuing truth and natural science. This is the combination of Boccaccio, Dante, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo to promote the renaissance, the promotion of human-centered, and the opposition to god as the center. And “the Ancient Greek myth” “the homer epic” and “Theogony” have laid a good foundation for western aesthetic art. The western philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle also created the philosophy of pursuing and upholding the truth, and promoted the development of western aesthetics. With the deepening of natural science, western painting pays more attention to the structure, space and sense of the object, and reflects the beauty of light and color.

3.3 The difference of thinking mode between China and the west

Chinese thinking is based on the characteristics of elegant intelligence, intuitive thinking, using the results to prove its rationality, Chinese painters under the influence of intuitive talent, the painting often successful. The versatile painter Liu Kuiling is driven by intuitive thinking, created the "king lining method", "wet silk hair method" and "black - white method" and other animal techniques, with the pen, color and water flexibly combined together, in a variety of colors into elegant color, vividly shows the shape and skin of the birds and beasts, and created a unique artistic appearance [4]. While the western people use rational thinking, that is rational thinking, in the process of painting, western painters will be integrated into the geometric thinking, so that their works have a strong sense of three-dimensional.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, the eastern and western painting have obvious differences in the artistic language, painting materials and expressive subject matter. The main reason is that the geographical location of China and the west is different, the east belongs to the river civilization, and the western countries are mostly influenced by the maritime civilization, the Chinese people advocate nature, accept, gentle and inclusive, the western people advocate hero, adhere to the pursuit of truth; the Chinese people attach importance to intuitive thinking, while western painters use rational thinking.

Reference


