

Original Research Article

A study on the influence of sketching on Chinese ink figure painting - taking the works of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian as examples

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Abstract: Taking the works of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian as examples, this paper explores the influence of sketching on Chinese ink figure painting. As a life-drawing technique, sketching injects new vitality into Chinese ink figure painting by quickly capturing the image features and aura of the subjects. Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian are two renowned Chinese painters who made full use of sketching techniques in their creations, demonstrating the vividness and uniqueness of Chinese painting. Through the analysis of their works, it can be seen that sketching has a positive impact on the shaping of human figures, the expression of lines and the use of brushstrokes. It also makes the human figures more realistic and three-dimensional, and enhances the interaction between the viewers and the works.

Keywords: sketching; Chinese ink figure painting; Huang Zhou; Fang Zengxian

1. Introduction

Chinese ink figure painting is one of the treasures of Chinese painting art. With its unique expression form and artistic style, it has attracted numerous painters to engage in this field. In this field, the sketch works of the two artistic masters, Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian, are not only outstanding works but also important representatives that have a profound impact on Chinese ink figure painting. This paper takes the works of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian as examples to explore the influence and significance of sketching on Chinese ink figure painting. By studying and analyzing their works, we can further understand the role of sketching in capturing human figures, conveying emotions, shaping compositions and rhythms in figure painting, and gain an in-depth understanding of the unique position and charm of sketching in Chinese ink figure painting.

2. Brief introduction of the artists

Huang Zhou (1925-1997), a native of Hebei Province, originally named Liang Jiantang, with the courtesy name Yingzhai, and also used the names Liang Yezi and Miao Di. He was one of the founders of modern Chinese ink figure painting and was famous for his unique artistic style and profound brush and ink skills. His works are known for their vivid sketch-like lines, bright colors and strong flavor of life, and have become a benchmark for modern ink figure painting.

Fang Zengxian (1931-2019), a native of Pujiang, Zhejiang Province, was a famous modern painter and one of the representatives of realistic Chinese figure painting creation in the second half of the 20th century. He further promoted the development of ink figure painting and was widely praised for his simple and contemporary style. He was the founder and promoter of the "New Zhejiang School Figure Painting", which has great influence in the Chinese painting circle.

Ink figure painting is an important branch of Chinese painting. With ink as the main medium and traditional Chinese writing brushes as the main painting tools, it depicts the image, movement, clothing and expression of human figures to convey the spiritual outlook and characteristics of the times of the figures. In terms of painting techniques, ink figure painting emphasizes the fluency of lines and the changes in the density of ink, pursues artistic conception and verve, and stresses the concepts of "meaning before the brush" and "implied meaning beyond the painting". Both Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian were representatives of Chinese ink figure painting in the 20th century, and their works occupy an important position in the history of fine arts. Huang Zhou's works

focused on expressing national customs and the life of ethnic minorities, emphasizing the expressive force of brush and ink and visual effects. Fang Zengxian, with his profound traditional skills and unique artistic style, was known as "a new height of modern ink figure painting". His works focused on expressing the inner emotions and temperament of human figures, and emphasized the fluency of lines and the richness of ink colors. The creations of these two artists not only enriched the expression methods of Chinese ink figure painting but also provided model styles and valuable inspirations for later painters.

3. Overview of sketching

Sketching is the most important and basic training method for traditional ink figure painting, focusing on expressing the form, structure and characteristics of the object. At the same time, sketching is also an independent form of painting and a basic form of painting training methods. It has the characteristics of conciseness, generalization and vividness, and can effectively train painters' observation ability, expressive ability and creativity.

In ink figure painting, sketching plays three basic roles: recording life, accumulating materials and improving modeling ability. Firstly, figure sketching can quickly capture the appearance features, movements and expressions of the model, thus vividly showing the image characteristics of the figure. Therefore, in the training and creation of ink figure painting, mastering sketching well is of great significance for capturing and expressing human figures. By proficiently mastering sketching skills, painters can quickly and skillfully grasp the spiritual temperament and personality characteristics of the object being sketched, making the works vivid and expressive. Secondly, sketching can also convey emotions and atmosphere. In excellent art creations, the expression of emotions and the transmission of atmosphere are very important. Painters with proficient sketching skills can better grasp the subtle changes of emotions and atmosphere, and integrate these subtle and implicit elements into their works through technical means, endowing the works with more artistic charm. Thirdly, sketching also plays an important role in the arrangement of composition and the setting of rhythm. Painters who master sketching skills proficiently can better grasp the laws of composition and rhythm, making their works harmonious, balanced and full of changes. This is of great significance for improving the artistic effect and aesthetic value of ink figure painting. It can be seen that sketching has an important influence on ink figure painting. Strengthening the research and practice of sketching can effectively improve the creation level of ink figure painting.

4. The influence of Huang Zhou's and Fang Zengxian's sketching on Chinese ink figure painting

Huang Zhou was famous in the field of ink figure painting for his unique method of "integrating sketch lines into painting". His paintings are known for their vivid figures from real life and powerful lines, and he also drew on Western painting techniques. Therefore, his figure paintings have distinct personal characteristics and a sense of the times. Among them, Huang Zhou's sketch works occupy a pivotal position. He not only used sketching as a tool to capture the dynamics of materials but also regarded it as a special expression method and artistic pursuit. The application of sketch lines can make the picture full of vitality and rhythm, endow the lines with tension and elasticity, and greatly enhance the expressive force of the works. His works and artistic concepts have had a great influence on later ink figure painters, and his works have become an important chapter in the history of Chinese fine arts. Many contemporary figure painters have been influenced and inspired by Huang Zhou, and his sketching skills and creative spirit have been inherited and carried forward in the contemporary ink figure painting circle. Huang Zhou's artistic achievements lie not only in his personal creations but also in his promotion and guidance of the development of Chinese ink figure painting. His artistic practice has become a precious asset for later generations to learn from and draw on.

Huang Zhou's influence is mainly reflected in three aspects. Firstly, his sketching practice made later painters begin to think about how to capture the dynamics and verve of the object with simple tools and concise lines. Secondly, Huang Zhou's love for life and in-depth observation of human figures have inspired later painters to go deep into life, take root in life, and draw artistic creation materials and nutrients from life. Thirdly, based on his innovative spirit, later painters have continuously explored and innovated on the basis of tradition. Huang Zhou's

artistic achievements and contributions have made him a well-deserved leader in figure painting. His works and concepts have been widely studied and learned, and have become an important part of art education and art inheritance. His works and artistic experience have inspired generations of painters to adhere to artistic creation, strive to create more artistic works with depth, warmth and strength, and make new and greater contributions to China's cultural cause.

Fang Zengxian is one of the important representatives of modern Chinese ink figure painting. His artistic experience and creative characteristics have made his sketching practice occupy an important position in contemporary ink figure painting. Fang Zengxian has rich artistic experience. He first studied oil painting and then turned to Chinese painting, and was influenced by both traditional ink painting and oil painting. His creative feature is that he can not only maintain the charm of traditional ink painting but also integrate elements such as human body structure and perspective from Western oil painting creation into his works. In his works, we can often see the perfect combination of traditional ink painting and modern human body structure. At the same time, sketching is widely used and innovated in Fang Zengxian's works. His sketch works not only accurately capture human figures but also profoundly convey emotions and atmosphere. Moreover, both lines and ink colors are used appropriately, making the human figures vivid and full of emotions.

Fang Zengxian has had a profound influence on contemporary ink figure painting. His works not only show a deep understanding and unique insights into Ink figure painting also provides and points out directions and several possibilities for the development of contemporary ink figure painting. His artistic practice has inspired countless later artists and played an important role in the inheritance of Chinese ink figure painting. Fang Zengxian's sketching practice and innovation have provided enlightenment for the development of contemporary ink figure painting, and his works are of great value and significance to both the art circle and the general public.

Both Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian are very famous painters in the contemporary Chinese ink figure painting circle. Their sketch styles and ink paintings are very distinctive and have become important research objects for figure painters. Huang Zhou's sketch style has a strong personality and distinct personal characteristics. His sketch works mostly use straight lines and "double lines", and the lines in the pictures are smooth and accurate, while full of rhythmic changes and strong sense of movement. In Huang Zhou's paintings, the vivid images of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and the lively and interesting life scenes are full of vitality. Huang Zhou's sketch drafts also focus on depicting the inner world of human figures. For example, in his famous series of works "Chunlan" (Spring Orchid), he conveys the inner emotions and temperament of the girl through the changes of lines and ink colors. Fang Zengxian's sketch style pays more attention to the observation of the objective world and the scientific depiction of human body structure. His sketch works have the characteristics of high conciseness and generalization in depicting human figures and scenes, showing the spiritual outlook of human figures and the details of life.

The sketch works of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian have an important influence on the development of Chinese ink figure painting. Among them, Huang Zhou's sketch works, with their unique style and expression methods, have created a new artistic realm and provided various methods and possibilities for later painters to explore ink figure painting. Moreover, his sketch works not only provide enlightenment to later generations in terms of skills but also convey the love for life and the persistent pursuit of art in spirit. Fang Zengxian's sketch works, with their generalized realism and high grasp of the scientific depiction of human body structure, have pushed Chinese ink figure painting to a new height. He has made high achievements in both sketch works and ink figure painting creation, and has had a profound influence on later artists. In the development of contemporary Chinese ink figure painting, the sketches of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian show their superb painting skills and artistic accomplishment. By integrating sketching into the life-drawing of ink figure painting, they have played an irreplaceable role in the development of ink figure painting.

There are significant differences between Fang Zengxian's sketch style and Huang Zhou's. Fang Zengxian's sketches take the human body structure as the reference for figure modeling, and at the same time emphasize the traditional flavor, showing a sketch style that combines a strong sense of volume with traditional modeling. Compared with the fast and decisive lines in Huang Zhou's sketches, Fang Zengxian's sketches pay more attention to the combination of scientific human body structure and the expressive force of traditional lines. In terms of expression methods, Fang Zengxian's sketches focus on capturing the inner spirit of the object, and his

works can often grasp the inner temperament and emotions of the object, thus making the works have a strong appeal. Huang Zhou's sketches, on the other hand, pay more attention to depicting the external form of the object, and his works often give people a visual impact with their strong sense of movement and vivid images of ethnic minorities. The sketches of both masters have played a very important role in the development of ink figure painting. Sketching is not only an important source of materials for artistic creation but also an important means of artistic expression.

The sketching practice of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian fully demonstrates the importance of sketching in artistic creation, indicating that sketching is not only a display of basic painting skills but also an artistic form of great value. Their sketching practice and innovation have had an important impact on the development of contemporary ink figure painting and revealed that only by adhering to going deep into life, doing more sketching, taking root in life and taking root among the people can greater achievements be made in artistic creation.

Through in-depth research on the sketching practice of these two painters, this paper intends to point out the important role of sketching. Firstly, as a fast, simple and effective painting technique, sketching can not only capture the external features of human figures but also deeply explore their inner spirit. Secondly, sketching has a unique way of conveying emotions and atmosphere, and its concise lines can quickly shape an atmosphere, making the viewers feel the emotional fluctuations of the painter when creating the work. Finally, in terms of grasping composition and rhythm, sketch works can make the picture full of changes while maintaining harmony and unity through various changes of lines.

5. Future outlook of sketching in Chinese ink figure painting

The research in this paper reveals the important position and role of sketching in Chinese ink figure painting, and has important enlightenment for the future creation and research of ink figure painting. In today's world where image technology is prevalent, sketching, as a basic painting technique, should be valued. Through sketching, artists can better train their observation ability and expressive ability, thereby improving their creation level. In the process of sketching, painters can express emotions quickly and accurately, which cannot be replaced by photos and other means. Therefore, artists can make use of this characteristic of sketching to express their emotions and feelings more deeply and delicately. In addition, the sketching practice of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian provides painters with perspectives and methods for studying ink figure painting. By studying their works, we can gain a deeper understanding of the creation process of ink figure painting, thereby promoting the development and innovation of ink figure painting. Through a large number of copying and research on the sketches of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian's ink figure paintings, it is found that Fang Zengxian's sketch works have smooth and delicate lines, and pay more attention to the inherent "calligraphic" nature and the capture and expression of the inner spirit of the object; Huang Zhou's sketches are famous for their fast, decisive and bold lines, and pay more attention to the sense of movement and the vividness of the image. Sketching occupies an important position in the artistic creation of Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian, which not only reflects their unique artistic styles but also becomes an important means for them to carry out artistic expression.

With the development of the times, multi-dimensional exploration can be carried out in the creation and research of ink figure painting in the future. Painters can continue to conduct in-depth research on the essence of traditional ink painting, and at the same time absorb elements from Western oil painting, printmaking and watercolor painting to create works with more contemporary characteristics and personal styles. At the same time, the research and practice of sketching should not be ignored. It can not only improve the observation ability and expressive ability of artists but also help artists better capture precious moments and real emotions in life.

To sum up, the development of various image and digital means is bound to affect traditional painting methods and enrich and assist creative means. However, from the creative process of the two artists, Huang Zhou and Fang Zengxian, it is still very necessary to emphasize the importance of sketching to Chinese ink figure painting today. Therefore, contemporary painters should carefully study sketching, practice sketching frequently, develop their own learning methods from it, and broaden their horizons.

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