

On the Expressive Skills of Enriching the Artistic Language of Watermark Woodcut

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Abstract

Watermark woodcut is one of the few preserved paintings with Chinese characteristics in traditional Chinese painting, which should be carried forward as a younger generation. At present, the biggest change in the status quo of printmaking development is to transform copying woodcut into creative watermark woodcut. Creative watermark woodcut weakens the practicality of printmaking to a certain extent, strengthens the artistic expression of printmaking itself, and makes the work itself more bearing the author's personal preference and inner monologue, and then creative watermark woodcut can still occupy a place in the contemporary art environment.

Keywords

Watermark woodcut, Creative skills, Artistic language.

1. Introduction

Enriching the expression skills of watermark woodcut art language can make excellent watermark prints have more choices of expression forms, so it is necessary for art creators to reserve some watermark woodcut art language processing skills. Beginners often face some problems in the artistic language expression of watermark woodcut, such as the language of picture form is too simple and the artistic expression is very empty. In order to make the language of picture form not monotonous, many beginners simply conceptually increase the types of objects in the picture, and the increase of object types can really enrich the picture. However, this approach not only enriches the picture, but also makes the picture more noisy. The reason is that there are a large number of complex interaction forces among different kinds of objects, which fill the whole picture. Due to the uneven repulsion and fusion between these forces and the uncontrolled quantity, the forces generated by various objects in the picture are easily twisted together in chaos. In order to enrich the picture, simply adding the types of objects in the picture may also greatly increase the workload of making the picture, which is obviously not desirable.

2. Enrich the Skills of Artistic Language Expression of Watermark Woodcut

It is necessary to understand the causes of the complex "point, line and plane" of art processing before analyzing some creative skills of watermark woodcut art language expression. The principle is roughly like this. When a person watches an object attentively, especially when his attention is focused on a certain point, the objects other than this point gradually become blurred, especially in the visual range, the farther away from this focus, the more blurred the visual feeling. These blurred objects may even produce the phenomenon of duplicative overlapping of objects and images, and the instantly overlapping objects become visual

combinations; Because these visual overlapping combinations are natural phenomena, they are easily accepted by the public in visual senses, and can be naturally dissolved in other environmental objects without appearing abrupt. Because of this natural phenomenon, overlapping combinations can serve to enrich the artistic language expression of watermark woodcut.

2.1. Take Line Processing as An Example to Enrich the Artistic Language Expression of Watermark Woodcut

There are many specific techniques to enrich the artistic language expression of watermark woodcut. For example, reasonable processing of lines in the picture can enrich the artistic language expression of watermark woodcut. The line in the picture is originally attached to the original image, which is a high concentration and generalization of the deep turning of the edge of the image; In order to better express the object and the creator's intention, it is often extracted subjectively, and the extracted lines are relatively simple in number and retain the original object outline in shape; The single number of lines often makes the picture empty, and attaching to the outline of the original object easily leads to passivity in artistic expression, so it needs drastic artistic treatment. For the monotony of quantity, the technique of "overlapping" can be adopted, and the subjective "overlapping" artistic treatment of various lines in the picture can greatly alleviate the monotony of the picture; But simple "overlapping" often makes the picture messy and noisy. At this time, some processing can be done on the modeling of the line, such as the geometric processing of the line, the geometric processing of the line, abandoning the outline details of some original objects, and keeping the large outline of the object, which can liberate its modeling constraints to a certain extent. In the process of abandoning and retaining, these lines are guided subjectively in the direction.



Figure 1. Personal watermark woodcut works

When watermark woodcut is created concretely, geometric abstract lines are more conducive to making. Figure1 shows personal watermark woodcut works, because watermark woodcarving uses a woodcarving knife to engrave on the layout, its directionality is very important in the engraving process. If the direction of the woodcarving knife changes repeatedly, it will invisibly increase the engraving difficulty, and the engraved object edges are easy to be unsmooth. Because the wood board is hard and textured, when the woodcut knife runs in the same direction on the layout, the wood board knife will run smoothly because the resistance to damage the layout texture is small. When the running direction of the woodcut knife is changed repeatedly, the woodcut knife will constantly destroy the wood grain in different directions. The manufacturing method of constantly destroying the wood grain in different directions is very easy to pull the wood fiber out of the running track, which will

virtually obstruct the running track of the woodcut knife. Due to this limitation, woodcut knives can't be as flexible in layout as pens used in conventional painting, especially when the details of engraving outline are cumbersome, which will make the final picture image humbled, and then make the whole picture incomplete. In view of this, geometric abstract lines are more conducive to making, and it is easier to make the carved image outline smoother and more integral.

In addition, how to deal with each geometric line guided by subjective direction is also very important for enriching the language expression of watermark woodcut art. Each line also needs certain skills in color and length processing, so it is not appropriate to treat the lines in the same color, which will lead to very small visual differences and weaken the sense of space between lines. Therefore, there should be a difference between lines in color. Lines that can reflect the large outline of objects can be heavier in color, while other minor lines can be imaginary. The difference in color can create space visually, and the greater the color difference between lines, the richer the layers of lines. In addition, it is very important to express the length of geometric lines reasonably. In order to better express the creator's creative intention, the length of lines can not be set according to the actual length of objects. These repeated "overlapping" geometric lines with different lengths create a sense of spatial distance between lines because of their differences in length, which in turn enriches the picture level, and further enriches the language expression of watermark woodcut art.

2.2. Take the "Point" Processing of the Picture as An Example to Enrich the Artistic Language Expression of Watermark Woodcut

Enriching the artistic language in watermark woodcut can also start with enriching the "points" of the picture, and learn from the principle of line processing, so that the extraction and subjective treatment of the points in the picture have become a good way to follow. The addition of points not only needs to enrich the picture, but also needs to keep vivid visual effect in the picture; Taking the watermark woodcut works created by the author recently as an example, dip in the prepared ink with tools such as writing brush and throw it on the wooden board; When making, the ink on the tip of the writing brush should not be too much. Generally speaking, it can be wet, which can ensure that the ink splashed out when the writing brush is thrown presents a dot state. In the specific operation, find out the position of the point to be added roughly, keep a certain distance between the pen and the layout, block it in its running track by hand in the process of throwing the writing brush, the pen will stop when it is blocked by hand, and the ink points of the pen head will continue to splash irregularly along the original track inertia to the wood board to be engraved; These irregular ink dots have large and small circles and other shapes in appearance. These irregular ink dots are clustered and scattered in position distribution, and they are very free and flexible in direction distribution. It is precisely because of the difference in size, position and direction of these irregular ink dots that the dots on the layout are very free and lively, and it is very important to keep these free and lively ink dots for enriching the artistic language of watermark woodcut; In the specific production stage, for the processing of these ink dots, it is impossible to directly dig out their shapes on the layout with a woodcut knife, which is often very easy to make the original image of the dots stiff; The best way to keep its free and lively features is to keep the general shape of these free and lively dots without sticking to the specific details; For better artistic expression, it is suggested that the knife should run in a single direction as far as possible at the moment of engraving, and its final effect is often more pure. In the engraving process, the local outline of its object is summarized or even abandoned because of the single direction of tool transport; At the same time, some local details of the object are controlled by inertial knife method, which leads to the addition of some details that were not originally available; In this way, "one plus one MINUS" intentionally or unintentionally makes the "points" in the picture wander between rationality

and sensibility, and these irregular points are randomly arranged in the picture to be full of vitality. When printing works in detail, the treatment of these dots is similar to that of the front line, so it is not appropriate to print the dots in the same depth and never treat them equally in order to save time; Brush more paint on some points, which makes the printing effect of these points uneven, and there are some layers of differences in the weight of each part of the points, which not only enriches the picture, but also makes the picture effect thicker because of the points. Therefore, it is very important to deal with the "points" in the picture reasonably for enriching the artistic language of watermark woodcut.

2.3. Take the "Face" Processing of the Picture as An Example to Enrich the Artistic Language Expression of Watermark Woodcut

The rich artistic language in watermark woodcut can also start with the processing of "surface" in woodcut, which is similar to the processing of "line" and "point" mentioned above, and its processing skills have a strong subjective tendency. In order to make the picture more overall and rhythmic, it is necessary to work hard on many details; Taking the watermark woodcut works recently created by the author as an example, in order to make the formal language in the works more appropriate to meet the personal artistic expression, when dealing with the color blocks with large area in the picture, their appearance should be summarized as far as possible, and their large outline should be kept, and some dispensable details should be discarded, and even some color blocks should be abstracted into geometric shapes; The more abstract these geometric color blocks are, the easier it is to make the picture become free and lively. These color blocks are more abstract in appearance than the original object. The greater the difference between them in appearance, the greater the sense of separation from the picture, and then the stronger the independence of the color blocks in the picture. In addition to the difference in appearance, the treatment of its area should also be treated with caution. These color blocks will be more independent in the picture because of the increase of their area. The acting force formed by these independent color blocks makes the picture more flexible, which plays a very important role in enriching the artistic language in watermark woodcut. In addition, the staying and leaving of the surface also deeply affects the tension and rhythm of the picture to a certain extent, and plays a great role in enriching the artistic language of watermark woodcut. For example, the color block in the center of the picture should be kept as much as possible, and even subjective enhancement should be done; The number of color blocks needs to occupy most of the picture, which is different from other non-core color blocks; Color blocks can be appropriately enriched in color processing, and the heaviest color blocks in the picture are placed in the light and heavy level processing, which is different from other non-core color blocks. Non-core areas need to be subtracted in terms of performance, subtracted subjectively in terms of quantity, and weakened in terms of color contrast to contrast the core areas. The concentration of the number of the core areas of the picture and the strong contrast of the color blocks make this area become the visual center of the picture, thus realizing the creator's creative intention more appropriately.

3. Conclusion

Reasonable use of some skills to enrich the artistic language of watermark woodcut is very important for the artistic creation of watermark woodcut; Watermark woodcut is an excellent traditional art form in China, and its language form should be continuously expanded to meet the needs of modern art development. There are many artistic processing techniques of artistic language, and the artistic processing techniques stated in this paper only come from personal recent creative experience. The artistic processing techniques of "point, line and plane" are used to enrich the artistic language of watermark woodcut, hoping to help other creators express their personal artistic feelings.

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