

The Development of Conservation and Restoration of Oil Painting in China

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Abstract

These years, certain educators and institutions of fine arts have begun to take some initiatives (Wu, 2019). More and more Training Models of conservation and restoration of oil painting are being explored and researched (Yuan, 2019). At present, the training methods of domestic conservation and restoration of oil painting talents are implemented mainly through the following ways: First, museums and scholarly institutions (Wu, 2019) such as the National Museum, the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, the Anhui Museum, and the Xu Beihong Memorial Hall etc. chose to cooperate with talents to cultivate their own professionals in oil painting conservation and restoration (Sun, 2019). Second, there are a few art institutions such as Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China Oil Painting Academy, Guangdong Museum of Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts and the School of Fine Arts of Shanghai University, which have their own oil painting restoration studios, but they have fewer staff and less equipment (Wu, 2019); Third, the National Cultural Relics Bureau organized cultural institutions across the country to undertake the "Oil Painting Protection and Restoration Technology" special training course (Sun, 2019), which had a good response in the national cultural and expo system and trained a group of professionals, but this is far from satisfying the protection and restoration need of China's existing oil paintings (Sun, 2019b; Wu et al., 2017). Fourthly, cultural relic restoration programs are held to improve social awareness. This study is intended to design an online model of teaching conservation and restoration of oil painting for the participant members of the program by means of solid literature review, reliable qualitative research based on experts' interview in the relevant field and practical teaching experiments in participant colleges in China.

Keywords

The Conservation and Restoration of Oil Painting; Protection; Conservation; Repaire Technics and Skills.

1. Introduction

Given the current situation of the Conservation and Restoration of Oil Painting in China, there are a few art institutions and museums trying to take actions to promote the development. Such as opening up relating training courses, hiring more talents in the relevant field. Moreover, some of them even set up projects to promote the cultivation of professional technicians so as to better protect and restore the current oil paintings. Here below are the measures taken and achievements made from their attempts.

2. Efforts to Promote the Development of Conservation and Restoration of Oil Painting in China

2.1 The School of Visual Arts of Fudan University has a major in oil painting restoration, but the entire education system is not yet perfect (Sun, 2019). Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts has set up the curricula of conservation and restoration of oil painting, and keeps on exploring and developing the related specialty (Sun, 2019; Wu, 2019). In 2018, Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts opened up a course of conservation and restoration of oil painting instructed by Visiting Professor Ivan Norwich who is the director of Restoration Department of Serbian National Museum (Wu, 2019).

2.2 In 2012 and 2014, Anhui Museum applied for two phases of the "Pan Yuliang Oil Painting Cultural Relics Protection and Restoration Plan in Anhui Museum" project, which scientifically protected and restored 26 Pan Yuliang oil paintings in Anhui Museum (Sun, 2019). Taking this opportunity, Anhui Museum, with the support and assistance of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics, held the "Basic Training Course for Basic Skills in Oil Painting Protection and Restoration" and the "Advanced Training Course for Oil Painting Protection and Restoration Skills" in 2013 and 2015 respectively (Sun, 2019).

3. Anhui Museum's Exploration of the Future Talent Training Development Model

Anhui Museum, in line with the principle of drawing on the wisdom of all, invited elite backbone teachers from different oil painting restoration institutions to give lectures, aiming at cultivating students and strengthening the protection and restoration system and team building of oil painting in the industry, so as to lay a foundation for the protection and restoration of oil painting in the later period (Sun, 2019). The trainees came from 14 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China and set up a hierarchical and progressive training program from primary to senior level. Among them, a preliminary class is set up for students of different majors (Sun, 2019). Based on the basic cognition of the whole process of oil painting, the class is taught theoretically and practically by well-known experts on the types of oil painting diseases and the protection and restoration methods (Sun, 2019). The training scheme is designed mainly for different schools (as there are no corresponding industry standards for protection and restoration of oil painting in varied schools, such as American school, Russian school, the European school, etc.) (Sun, 2019). Experts and professors are hired to teach different painting repair techniques of different schools, and then compare the analysis and research results to help students in their practice to find suitable models for the domestic oil painting repair (Li, 2013; Yuan, 2019; Sun, 2019).

In the process of this project-driven talent cultivation, oil painting restoration has been organically combined with teaching and learning, learning and application, and application and research (Yuan, 2019; Sun, 2019). The program hired 28 top experts in the process of training from the state administration of cultural heritage, Chinese Cultural Heritage Research Institute, Anhui Museum etc. cultural units and Nanjing University, Guangdong Art Museum, Shanghai Institute of Visual Art, Shanghai University Academy of Fine Arts (Sun, 2019). Dedicated to different factions of the current domestic industry for the protection of cultural relics and painting repair industry at home and abroad (such as the United States, Europe, Russia and those with characteristic of Chinese oil painting restorer), they have a wealth of theoretical knowledge and practical experience (Wu, 2019; Yuan, 2019). They engaged in the direction of the protection and restoration of paintings according to their personal experience and research focused on the fine course, and has brought more than 600 classes, including 480 hours' theory lectures and 150 hours' practice courses about the protection of cultural relics, concepts and

principles, the core content of oil painting repair, such as the role of analysis detection technology of modern science and technology in oil painting repair and application, protection and restoration of different paintings diseases in practice, oil painting and the mutual effect between cultural relics from extraction to the whole process of detailed analysis and complete repair (Sun, 2019).

4. The Precious Experiences of Anhui Museum's Exploration of the Future Talent Training Development Model

First, it is a new exploration of the talent cultivation model in the future to be driven by the project of oil painting conservation and restoration (Sun, 2019). Second, the key points in the cultivation process of oil painting are to distinguish talent levels and clarify training directions, strengthen cross-disciplinary communication, reasonably introduce talents and make full use of them, and maintain the stability of oil painting restoration team (Sun, 2019). Third, it is an effective way to promote the cultivation and development of talents in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural relics by establishing its related majors and carrying out scientific research projects in cooperation with universities and enterprises (Sun, 2019). Fourth, the exchange and sharing of information through the Internet will become a new channel for painting protection and restoration (Sun, 2019). Fifth, how to cultivate the ability of adapting measures to local conditions, designing methods according to local conditions, and obtaining materials on the spot, how to integrate the protection and restoration of oil painting with local cultural history, local customs and geography, and how to study the restoration methods consistent with local climate, environment and political culture will also be a major topic of talent cultivation (Sun, 2019).

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