

Comprehensive Material Performance of Sculpture

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Abstract: With the rapid development of social science and technology, there are many kinds of comprehensive materials used in the creation of sculpture art. Choosing sculpture materials is the gradual revealing process of artistic image^[1] and is also the process of material's own shape change. However, sculpture creation will also be limited by the materials used to construct the sculpture works. Choosing the appropriate comprehensive materials can better reflect the creator's personality, mind, habits and ideas to express. This paper will analyze the performance of the comprehensive materials of sculpture.

1. Introduction

Comprehensive material sculpture is an important form of art with modern significance at this stage. Attaching importance to the essence of humanistic spirit and aesthetic connotation endowed by artists in the process of creation of sculpture works has further broadened the artistic expression and artistic appeal of sculpture creation, and better reflects the characteristics of comprehensive material itself, which has become a very important form of expression at the present stage. Meanwhile, it enjoys a relatively long development history.

2. Development of the Application of Comprehensive Materials in Sculpture Design

The ontological language of sculpture works mainly includes the expressive techniques, creative styles and materials of sculpture. Flexible use of different types of materials in the process of sculpture creation, on the one hand, can make the sculpture work show a variety of artistic characteristics, on the other hand, can also let the sculpture work convey unique artistic feelings and in the long history of art form a variety of styles. In the hands of artists, the materials used are endowed with their own spiritual thoughts and souls as well as their own dreams. Therefore, it is inadequate to regard materials and creative ideas as the basic point of sculpture art. The emergence and further development of sculpture works are inseparable from people's production and life, which are also influenced by many ideologies such as religious thoughts and philosophical knowledge of each era. When we were still living in the caves and wilderness, in order to survive the struggle against the beasts, we already knew that the stone could be polished to make a very sharp defensive weapon or cutting tool, and then according to aesthetic consciousness and our own wisdom, we carved some materials that could be used into artistic ornaments higher than practical functions, which constantly evolved into sculptures works. Therefore, to some extent, human beings are able to develop and progress because of the appearance of sculpture.

Materiality is the most important difference between sculpture and other forms of art if we consider it solely from the perspective of material. Sculpture is usually created with one or more materials. The characteristics of materials themselves are also a major component of the form beauty in sculpture works. The development history of sculpture art is relatively long. The development history of sculpture in China and the West proves that the creation of sculpture is different because of the differences of historical period, region, race, religion, economy and political environment. Although some sculpture works are not pure "sculpture" works of art in their time, to a certain extent, they are sacrificial vessel and instruments with certain religious connotations. However, in fact, such "sculptures" are with more or less certain sculpture consciousness, and the use of sculpture materials is also constantly developing. According to the records of relevant

historical documents, ancient Chinese people had gradually used stones, timber and animal bones as materials to form the art of “carving“. The primitive society of our country transformed the clay to a certain extent and formed the skill of “sculpture“. With the help of the temperature produced by fire, the properties of materials have changed qualitatively. Among them, the representative art forms are mainly painted pottery and painted sculpture. In the past, comprehensive material sculpture in traditional cognition has gone through a long history in China. Since the Qin and Han Dynasties, casting, material welding, surface gold, plastic body mosaic and other technical means made the development of this category of sculpture with unprecedented prosperity.

For example, at Sanxingdui Site in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, the bronze Sanxingdui figurines unearthed are mainly made of bronze and precious metals, but this work of art is not a typical representative of the use of comprehensive materials. Since the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty, with the continuous integration of religious art, the theme of sculpture had not been separated from the description of Buddhist figures from the beginning to the end. Until the Song Dynasty, iron materials were added to the metal materials used in sculpture, whose material effect is very different from copper. Sculpture in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties has a certain degree of secularization, because folk sculpture art has been better developed. The material of the exhibition is also more complex, including bricks, diamonds, agate, shells, bamboo and carvings.

Till now, only after careful selection and modification by the artist about sculpture art’s overall outline, overall color distribution, material quality and so on, can they be combined into a very complete sculpture work of art. Therefore, the artist’s own artistic thinking slowly penetrates the creation of different types of themes, the choice and use of materials as well as the process of the overall image shaping of sculpture. While it is different from before that the materials used in sculpture is a very important link in shaping and embodying the language of sculpture. For example, after polishing, Hetian Jade will produce a more delicate, pure, sweet and interesting sensory experience, forming a beautiful melody in combination with its beautiful shape curve and giving people a more comfortable spiritual world to enjoy. The metal in the sculpture material has a smooth touch with simple and strong shape, and a light and surging sense of music, making it show itself in the artist’s hands with a great sense of the rhythm of the pulse of the times ^[2]. It is not difficult to see that a rich variety of sculpture materials can make the body language and style of sculpture diversified. These different kinds of materials in the hands of artists convey their unique aesthetic feeling, and it is precisely because these comprehensive materials make the appeal further stimulated.

3. Development Space of Using Comprehensive Materials in Sculpture Creation

The use of comprehensive materials in sculpture art brings different visual perception, which has been studied and explored by many sculpture art districts. Its own strength is reflected in that it not only breaks the traditional aesthetic concept of sculpture, but also stirs up the original artistic concept in people’s cognition from the inside to the outside, gains the unanimous praise and love of many sculpture artists, satisfies people’s various requirements on the aesthetic level of art, and brings people diversified choices and manifestations of art. With the rapid development of modern sculpture design, the combination application of comprehensive materials and collage technology make people become more eager to be close to nature and awaken their instinct of longing for nature. More and more innovative use of comprehensive materials has further enhanced the expressive tension and rendering power of sculpture works, making full use of the possibilities of various materials.

The experiment of using comprehensive materials in sculpture creation is relatively late for our country. But in a short period of 20 years, it has risen rapidly in our country and formed an upward trend year by year. However, the development of material sculpture in our country is still facing some obstacles of conservative consciousness. Therefore, for Chinese sculpture artists, they should dare to break through the shackles of traditional art, make radical innovations, and continue to explore and promote their development in the experiment. Although material is just a kind of substance without consciousness of its own, if the role of material is expected to play a better role in

the hands of sculpture artists, there should be more in-depth discoveries and excavations. Sculpture artists are supposed to use materials appropriately, artistically and creatively, use new materials and new technology without fear, select and apply materials more skillfully, and give new artistic expression to all kinds of materials. At the same time, they should give the works a brand-new ideological essence. For the application of new materials, it is essential to not only use a new material for simple stacking, but also seek a new form of emotional expression in new materials. Therefore, in the combination of new technology and traditional artistic language, the integration zone which is consistent with the aesthetic trend of the general public can be explored, so as to create emotional resonance between their works and the masses. Particular attention should be paid to finding a new way of showing “beauty and ugliness“ and the most suitable range of artistic aesthetic concepts in people’s soul in the process of using new materials and technologies. In the creation of new sculpture works, the sculpture artists need to interpret the concepts of the works with comprehensive materials as far as possible, which will enrich the forms of expression of contemporary art to a great extent, better meet people’s different aesthetic needs, and promote the further development of art in Chinese or even in the world^[3].

4. Application of Comprehensive Materials in Sculpture Teaching

In practical teaching, for example, the landscape planning of the Eastern City of the Tang Dynasty is the theme of sculpture design. The history and culture of the Tang Dynasty should be its design theme. For the form of architectural expression, modern sculpture needs to be mainly used. Therefore, the role of sculpture in the overall planning is to make it more attractive. In the design, students are supposed to take full account of the cultural characteristics and important historical value of the Eastern City of the Tang Dynasty, integrate classical art elements and styling styles, think deeply and study the actual needs of its design, analyze the shortcomings of relevant sculpture works in its materials and topics, and then form sculptures with great characteristics and epochal significance. The relief behind the overlapping water of the North Square is a part of the overall sculpture. The plot conveyed by the relief is mainly that the envoys came to the hall with various exquisite tributes to meet the Tang emperor. The bottom of the relief is mainly made of stone, while the figures, animals and palace buildings on the relief are mainly made of pottery. The fired parts are glued to the parts where they should be glued in the stone. For the treatment of decorative details, using good quality mussel shell and jade as materials helps to improve the overall vividness of the picture. The emphases are Palace architecture, which should embody the important characteristics of Chinese culture. Therefore, it is not necessary to divide the building according to the original plan of the palace architecture in the design. Instead, it can be used as a characteristic symbol of the picture by dividing the building appropriately, and to recombine it, which adds a little joy to the original solemn and dignified Palace building. The selection of materials in sculpture not only embodies the ecological theme of contemporary world sculpture, but also reflects the essence of historical accumulation left behind in the landscape planning based on the site culture, such as ceramics, wood, stone, all kinds of metals and glass and so on. The flexible combination of comprehensive materials and plastic elements is also the combination of ancient and modern materials selection and use methods. It can also achieve the artistic collision of ancient and modern plastic elements. The details of its sculpture also further enrich the whole planning of sculpture. Therefore, the use of comprehensive materials in sculpture teaching is necessary.

5. Conclusion

Some people think that sculpture is a physical art, which is static with a sense of dance rhythm. The materials used to show this passion and charm to the viewers are both silent and concrete ties. Only by constantly accumulating and understanding the development of materials in sculpture creation and grasping the unique characteristics of various materials, can creators make the use of comprehensive materials more skillful in future creative practice and design excellent sculpture works.

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