# Study on the Evolution of Clay Sculpture Style in Qin and Han Dynasties under the Influence of History and Culture

### Yue Jin

Xianyang Normal University, School of Design, Shaanxi, Xianyang 712000

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Abstract: The Qin and Han Dynasties were a period of great unification of Chinese feudal society, with economic development and prosperity, and military strength and invincibility. The rulers not only strengthened the unification of politics, economy and culture, but also attached great importance to the development of art, taking sculpture art as a means of unification of merits and oath of sovereignty. In this era, it is an important period for the establishment and development of our national art style. These characteristics of the times are embodied in the art of sculpture, forming a magnificent and vibrant style. As a result, a large number of sculpture works emerged. The sculpture in Qin and Han Dynasties promoted the development of Chinese sculpture, which was the peak in the history of Chinese sculpture. Its unique sculpture techniques had a profound impact on later generations and had important significance for the development of Chinese sculpture history. In the course of historical development, Qin and Han Dynasty is relatively short. From Qin to Han Dynasty, the style of clay sculpture in Qin and Han Dynasty has been influenced by history and culture, and some changes have taken place. It is of great significance to study the evolution of style for the development of sculpture. This paper is based on the influence of social and political conditions and ideas of governing the country, the cultural tradition inherited by the times, aesthetic ideas and philosophical ideas. The reasons of style evolution are discussed.

### 1. Introduction

In a vast area of China, scattered with ancient sculpture art, is the cultural heritage of our nation for a hundred years. With the long history of building, many sculptures have been left behind and become the most valuable treasures of many arts and cultures. Sculpture is one of the greatest arts of mankind. With the progress of society, the category of sculpture in our country has been expanding continuously, and the sculpture industry has developed rapidly [1]. Qin and Han Dynasty is a unified period in Chinese history. The unprecedented vitality of economy, politics and culture has provided a strong foundation for the development of sculpture at that time. It is an important stage in the history of sculpture development and has a far-reaching impact on the sculpture industry. The history of social, political and economic development is the primary factor affecting the development of art. It is of great significance to study the evolution of clay sculpture style in Qin

and Han Dynasties. From the Qin Dynasty to the Han Dynasty, although there were ups and downs during this period, from a long-term historical point of view, it belonged to a great historical period with vigor and courage [2]. Sculpture style is restricted and influenced by many factors such as politics, economy, culture and region of the times. Qin Dynasty has a unique historical position. Its sculpture style is magnificent and its artistic style is highly realistic. After the fall of Qin Dynasty, the Han Dynasty inherited the Qin system, resulting in a freehand and spiritual, concise and flexible sculpture style. A thorough understanding of the evolution of analytical style must put its association back into the corresponding historical environment. Although the sculpture art of Qin and Han Dynasties is different, they have many similarities, and their respective characteristics are relatively distinct. They are changing with the different times. In a word, the development of the two generations has made great contributions to the development of art history in China and laid a good foundation for later art [3]. Following is the analysis of the style of Qin and Han Dynasty, and then on the basis of it, the reasons for the evolution of clay sculpture style in Qin and Han Dynasty are analyzed.

# 2. The evolution of sculpture style in Qin and Han Dynasty based on historical background

By analyzing the style of clay sculpture in Qin and Han Dynasties, it is of great significance to study the evolution of style in the historical background of Qin and Han Dynasties.

## 2.1 The Primitive Style of Qin Dynasty Sculpture

The Qin Dynasty was the first centralized feudal country in China's history. It used sculpture art to show Wang's strict authority and to publicize his unification [4]. The unification of Qin Dynasty, the concentration of manpower and material resources, and the great improvement of productivity have created good conditions for the development of sculpture art. In that period, respect for ethics, ghosts and gods, and the art center also preferred arts and crafts, with far-reaching influence. The quantity and quantity of sculptures in Qin Dynasty exceed any period in history, which is different from the decorative art forms in other times. The sculptors of Qin Dynasty will integrate their thoughts and feelings into the sculpture. The sculpture of Qin Dynasty has realistic style and characteristics, and has distinct Chinese realistic style. For example, the terracotta warriors and horses of Qin Dynasty, their realistic degree has reached a fairly high level. The sculpture is very true, which embodies their charm under the premise of reality [5]. It is not only reflected in the pursuit of the grandeur of individual terracotta warriors and horses, but also attaches great importance to their momentum. As shown in Fig.1 and Fig.2:



Fig.1 Terracotta Warriors and Horses



Fig.2 Terracotta Warriors and Horses

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are detailed and distant photographs of the terracotta warriors and horses respectively. From the near photographs, we can see the realistic degree of the terracotta warriors and horses. The distant photographs show that all the terracotta warriors and horses are tall and powerful.

Generally speaking, the Qin Dynasty's sculpture style is mainly practical, with strong initiative and utilitarianism. It is simple and straightforward in sculpture, and generally pursues big and much. The realistic style of sculpture in Qin Dynasty embodies the spirit of the times in Qin Dynasty. Its realistic art style plays a connecting role in the history of Chinese sculpture and is unique in the art of sculpture [6].

# 2.2 Evolution of Sculpture Style from Qin Dynasty to Han Dynasty

The main evolution from Qin Dynasty to Han Dynasty mainly includes four aspects, which are influenced by social and political conditions and thoughts of governing the country, inherited cultural traditions, aesthetic thoughts of the times and philosophical thoughts. After the demise of Qin Dynasty, the sculpture style of Han Dynasty was transformed. The following is a concrete analysis:

Influenced by the social and political situation and the idea of governing the country, the Qin Dynasty mainly followed the idea of governing the country by law, strictly enforcing the law. Under the law, sculptors followed the rules and regulations, and shaped the sculpture in accordance with its original shape, which was an important cause of the formation of realism in the Qin Dynasty. At the end of the Qin Dynasty, the people were displaced because of the cruel rule and suffered terribly. Finally, the Qin Dynasty perished. In the early Han Dynasty, the rulers adopted the policy of reassuring the people, cultivating their health, governing the world by doing nothing, abolishing the harsh laws, and governing the country by Taoism [7]. With loose political, economic and cultural policies, political stability and economic prosperity, the sculptures of the Han Dynasty changed accordingly. The social environment is becoming more stable and stable. The culture and art of the Han Dynasty have changed. The rulers pay more attention to the development of sculpture. They are very fond of literature and art. The more creative and artistic art of the Han Dynasty laid a good foundation for the development of the pottery and sculpture art of the Han Dynasty. Han Dynasty sculpture gradually turned to real life, sculpture art gradually formed a bold and bold, free and free, vigorous style, in sculpture techniques, showing overall momentum, concise and concise, artistic characteristics full of interest. Because of the short reign of the Qin Dynasty, some policies in the early Han Dynasty inherited the Qin Dynasty. Because of the shortage of economy, the magnificence of the Qin Dynasty could not reach the scale. However, on the basis of the change, there was a new style and appearance, which filled a brand-new pen for the sculpture art of later

generations [8].

Inherited by the influence of cultural traditions, Qin lived in a narrow geographical location and relatively closed environment before reunification. After entering Guanzhong, it was influenced by the local culture. Its artistic style was highly realistic and contained the conqueror's self-confidence. After the Qin Dynasty and the early Han Dynasty, influenced by Chu culture, the sculpture works in the Han Dynasty were integrated with dancing, poetry, clothing and other fields, so the Han Dynasty sculpture style changed from the realistic style of the Qin Dynasty to the romantic Chu style, and the sculpture works mostly showed freedom, relaxation and high spirits. A vivid and freehand style of sculpture.

Influenced by the aesthetic thoughts of the times, the Qin Dynasty respected Confucianism, followed the rules and practices in art, and created realistic ways. The Han Dynasty retreated its honor and dialed the lofty beauty, pursued the external image, pursued the essential characteristics of the sculpture objects and conveyed the internal spirit. The aesthetic orientation of the Han Dynasty was influenced by the relationship between form and spirit. The sculpture technique was neat and skillful, full of rhythm and overall sense.

Influenced by philosophical thought, Qin Dynasty was influenced by philosophical thought, and people were bound in ideology and culture. Compared with the Han Dynasty, in order to alleviate class contradictions and respect food itself, the Han Dynasty usually followed the natural and harmonious aesthetics. In the Han Dynasty, Confucianism was the sole reverence of Confucianism, which regarded nature as the object of obtaining survival materials and embodied personality emotion and personality strength in sculpture works.

### 3. Final Clay Sculpture Style of Qin and Han Dynasties

During the Han Dynasty, the social economy was rich and the ruling class was active. The sculpture art of this period reflected a good social environment, which not only had the magnificent style of Qin Dynasty, but also highlighted the magnificent and vigorous artistic personality of the sculpture works of the Han Dynasty. In the feudal society of the Han Dynasty, both economy and culture were highly developed. With the prosperity of the economy, the arts and essence of the previous generation were inherited and expanded. In ancient Chinese history and society, during the period of Emperor Wudi of Han Dynasty, all nationalities were integrated and unified. The sculptures of Han Dynasty mostly reflected the background of that time. The artists of pottery figurines in the Han Dynasty did not imitate them, but used creative and exaggerated techniques to shape sculptures.

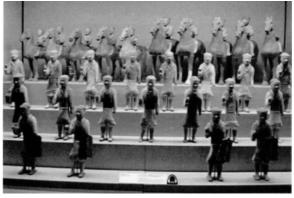


Fig.3 Terracotta Warriors

As shown in Fig.3, besides inheriting the Qin Dynasty system, the Han Dynasty figurines paid more attention to the expression of verve, depicting spirit in form, directly reflecting the main

characteristics of the spirit of the object, and expressing the verve temperament of the object.

The sculptures of the Han Dynasty are mostly vigorous and romantic, and reflect the characteristics of romance and mystery. The overall shape of the sculptures is mostly magnificent, majestic and masculine, which can show a strong spiritual atmosphere. The artistic characteristics of the Han Dynasty are strongly influenced by the national power of the Han Dynasty. The combination of realism and freehand brushwork in sculpture forms reflects the combination of reality and romanticism. The sculpture of the Han Dynasty has strong realism and freehand brushwork. Its sculpture patterns and characteristics show the strong sense of strength and self-confidence of the sculpture of the Han Dynasty. Generally speaking, the sculpture style of Han Dynasty is mainly rough, focusing on concise and exaggerated formal language. The whole sculpture is vigorous and full of vitality. The sculpture art of the Han Dynasty has a profound and grand spirit, which reflects the spirit of the times full of self-confidence and creativity. The development of the sculpture of the Han Dynasty has brought positive influence.

### 4. Conclusion

The development of sculpture art in Qin and Han Dynasty occupies an important position in Chinese history and is the combination of Chinese people's artistic thought and national spirit. Generally speaking, the sculpture works of Qin and Han Dynasty are full of masculinity, showing the heroic spirit of unification of the world. In the sculpture works, it reflects the strong national strength. The sculpture art in Qin and Han Dynasties is interesting and has a lofty artistic realm, which pushes the Chinese sculpture art to its peak. The sculpture of Qin and Han Dynasty not only lies in its artistic value in Chinese history, but also is a symbol of the spirit of the times.

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