

# A Study on the Integration of Traditional Techniques and Contemporary Fashion Aesthetics in the Creation of Ski-Themed Copperplate Engraving

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**Abstract:** Northeast China, with its unique ice and snow resources and ski culture, provides abundant themes and materials for the creation of copperplate engravings. The inheritance of traditional copperplate engraving techniques and their adaptation to contemporary fashion aesthetics have become the core proposition for the innovative development of artistic creation with regional themes. Taking ski-themed copperplate engravings as the research object, this paper first sorts out the artistic value of Northeast China's ski culture and the core types of traditional copperplate engraving techniques, then analyzes the influence dimensions of contemporary fashion aesthetics on the creation of ski-themed copperplate engravings, focuses on exploring the integration paths of traditional copperplate engraving techniques and contemporary fashion aesthetics in creation, and finally summarizes the practical significance of integrated creation for the inheritance of regional art, the innovation of copperplate engraving art and the dissemination of ice and snow culture. It is intended to provide theoretical reference and practical direction for the creation of copperplate engravings with regional characteristics.

**Keywords:** Skiing theme; Copperplate engraving; Traditional techniques; Contemporary fashion aesthetics; Artistic integration

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Research background

As the region with the most abundant ice and snow resources in China, Northeast China features a long winter and ample snowfall, nurturing a profound ice and snow culture. As the core carrier of this culture, skiing is not only a popular leisure sport but also an integral part of regional cultural symbols. The diverse scenes associated

with skiing—from the athletic grace of professional ski competitions and the casual charm of mass skiing, to the breathtaking natural beauty of snow-covered landscapes and the fusion of regional folk customs with skiing—all abound with inspiration for artistic creation. Copperplate engraving, a major category of classical Western printmaking, underwent localization after its introduction to China, evolving into an art form that blends traditional heritage with diverse expressions. Its unique technical texture and artistic expressiveness can precisely capture the dynamic tension and regional characteristics of skiing subjects.

Contemporary artistic creation exists within an era defined by the collision and fusion of tradition and modernity. Traditional artistic techniques detached from contemporary aesthetic demands risk stagnation in their transmission, while modern artistic creation, lacking the support of traditional techniques, struggles to cultivate profound artistic depth. Ren Huihui mentioned in the article that modern Winter Olympics woodcut prints, including multi-color woodcuts, copperplate prints, and mixed-media prints, focus on competition, speed, strength, and the Olympic spirit, achieving a fusion of traditional printmaking language with the aesthetics of contemporary winter sports<sup>[1]</sup>. In ski-themed copperplate engraving, how to leverage the artistic strengths of traditional techniques while aligning with contemporary fashion aesthetics—achieving synergy among thematic distinctiveness, traditional craftsmanship, and modern sensibilities—has become a crucial research topic. This approach aims to preserve the essence of copperplate art, highlight Northeast China’s unique snow and ice culture, and satisfy contemporary audiences’ aesthetic expectations.

## **1.2. Research significance**

**Theoretical Significance:** This study focuses on the distinctive field of skiing-themed creation, deeply analyzing the integration logic between traditional copperplate engraving techniques and contemporary fashion aesthetics. It fills a gap in research on the fusion of regional snow-and-ice subjects with copperplate engraving art, enriching both regional art creation theory and the theoretical framework for printmaking innovation. It provides a theoretical reference for contemporary transformation studies of traditional art forms within similar regional subjects.

**Practical Significance:** From a practical perspective, this research clarifies the integration pathways between traditional techniques and contemporary aesthetics in ski-themed copperplate engravings. It provides concrete creative approaches and methodological references for copperplate engravers, empowering them to produce works that harmoniously blend traditional texture, regional distinctiveness, and contemporary aesthetic value simultaneously. It explores the cultural essence of Northeast China’s skiing through artistic expression, thereby promoting the artistic dissemination of Northeast China’s ice and snow culture, enhancing regional cultural influence, and empowering the integrated development of the Northeast’s ice and snow industry and cultural industry.

## **1.3. Research status at home and abroad**

### **1.3.1. Domestic research status**

Domestic research on copperplate engraving primarily focuses on three dimensions: traditional technique inheritance, localized development, and thematic innovation. Regarding traditional techniques, scholars concentrate on analyzing core processes such as drypoint, etching, and dusting, while exploring inheritance pathways, emphasizing the foundational role of traditional methods in sustaining the artistic texture of copperplate engraving. For example, in the article “The Unique Aesthetic Value of ‘Points, Lines, and Planes’

in Intaglio Prints and Its Role in Regional Theme Intaglio Print Research”, Tao Rui highlights the unique role of pictorial composition in regional prints <sup>[2]</sup>; In his paper “A Brief Analysis of the Expression of Vaporwave Art Language in Spatial Representation of Intaglio Print Creation”, Zhao Chengxuan discusses issues such as the spatial representation of contemporary art, contemporary easel painting, and intaglio prints. These articles mostly take regional culture as their starting point; Regional-themed copperplate engraving research predominantly explores the integration of local folklore and natural landscapes with copperplate engraving creation, using Northwest China and Jiangnan as primary case studies <sup>[3]</sup>. While research centered on Northeast China’s snow and ice themes remains scarce; Research on the fusion of traditional and contemporary elements primarily revolves around technical innovation and aesthetic adaptation, For example, in the article “The Linguistic Expansion and Aesthetic Turn of Contemporary China Copperplate Prints” co-authored by Xu Baozhong and Wang Jiazeng, the transformation path of contemporary China copperplate prints from traditional realistic narrative to diverse linguistic expression and conceptual aesthetics is systematically analyzed <sup>[4]</sup>. Meanwhile, in the article “The Historical Transcendence and Contemporary Innovation of China Copperplate Prints,” Wei Qian breaks through the limitations of copperplate print techniques and exotic themes, establishing a fusion system of Eastern aesthetics and Western media <sup>[5]</sup>. Yet it lacks specialized analysis of skiing as a specific snow-and-ice theme. Practical pathways for integrating technique and aesthetics remain insufficiently explored.

Concurrently, domestic research on skiing culture predominantly centers on industrial development and sports promotion, with limited exploration of skiing culture value from an artistic perspective. What particularly lacks is systematic research on the cross-disciplinary integration of skiing themes with copperplate engraving art, rendering existing findings insufficient to meet the practical demands for innovative creation in skiing-themed copperplate engraving.

### **1.3.2. Foreign research status**

Overseas copperplate engraving has a long history with a well-established research framework. In traditional technique studies, emphasis is placed on detailed craft analysis and standardized preservation of techniques, forming a mature theoretical system. Regarding subject matter, winter-themed copperplate engravings predominantly originate from regions rich in snow resources like Northern Europe and Canada, focusing on realistic depictions of natural snow landscapes and emotional expressions of humanistic scenes. While their creative techniques are relatively mature, influenced by regional cultural differences, foreign ice and snow-themed copperplate engravings lack expressions of Northeast China’s unique folk culture and skiing scenes. Furthermore, in the integration of traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetics, research often leans toward Western contemporary aesthetic contexts, creating a mismatch with China’s contemporary fashion aesthetic demands.

In summary, existing domestic and international research has yet to produce systematic outcomes addressing the integration of traditional techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics in skiing-themed copperplate engraving creation, thereby providing research room for this study.

## **2. Artistic value of ski culture and core types of traditional copperplate engraving techniques**

### **2.1. Artistic creation value of ski culture**

Skiing culture possesses both natural and humanistic attributes, with its artistic creation value primarily

manifested in three dimensions: thematic richness, morphological diversity, and emotional uniqueness. In terms of subject matter, skiing culture encompasses diverse scenarios. These include competitive scenes of professional athletes—dynamic images like slalom turns, jumps, and sprints—exuding power and tension; leisurely scenes of recreational skiing—warm images of family outings, parent-child interactions, and friends skiing together—evoking everyday life. It also encompasses the natural landscapes of skiing regions—static vistas like snow-covered forests, frosted mountains, and snowy light and shadow effects—blending grand vistas with delicate beauty. Additionally, it integrates Northeast Chinese folk customs with skiing, such as snow-ground folk dances, the clash of traditional decorations with ski gear, forming unique regional cultural expressions that offer diverse subject choices for copperplate engraving.

From a formal perspective, skiing subjects encompass two core categories: dynamic and static forms. Dynamic forms center on human movement, capturing the rhythmic flow of skiers' postures, equipment sway, and snow spray with powerful kinetic energy. Static forms emphasize snowy landscapes and tranquil scenes, showcasing the serene, delicate visual impact of mountain contours, snow textures, and the crystalline beauty of rime ice. These complementary forms enrich the visual layers of copperplate engravings.

Emotionally, skiing culture embodies the regional community's passion for life and spiritual pursuits. Competitive skiing conveys a spirit of perseverance and progress, while recreational skiing carries feelings of joy and relaxation. Snowy landscapes evoke reverence and love for nature. These emotional cores imbue copperplate engravings with profound spiritual depth, resonating emotionally with audiences.

## **2.2. Core types and artistic characteristics of traditional copperplate engraving techniques**

Having evolved over centuries, traditional copperplate engraving techniques have developed diverse craft systems. Among these, the core techniques suitable for ski-themed creations primarily include drypoint technique, etching technique, and dusting technique. Each technique possesses unique artistic characteristics, meeting the varied visual expression demands of ski subjects. The unique expression of printmaking is formed through the medium transformation from “plate” to “painting”, which creates distinctive aesthetics. Copperplate engraving employs diverse indirect techniques, and different interpretations of indirectness along with technical innovations can foster personal styles and advance the development of printmaking<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **2.2.1. Drypoint technique**

Drypoint stands as one of the most fundamental traditional copperplate engraving techniques. It involves directly incising the copper plate surface with a hard engraving tool, eliminating the need for etching. The hardness of the tool and the pressure applied during incision determine the texture of the lines. The technique-language-concept of dry-etching makes the line and the aesthetic synchronized<sup>[7]</sup>. Its core artistic characteristic lies in producing precise, sharp lines with strong tension, enabling rapid capture of the essential form in dynamic scenes. The uneven line thickness created by the burin's movement across the plate can simulate the swinging trajectories of a skier's limbs and the sliding marks of skis. Simultaneously, the variations in line weight convey a sense of rhythmic dynamism, making it well-suited for expressing core themes like competitive skiing scenes and human motion, highlighting the power and agility within the image. Additionally, drypoint offers flexible manipulation, allowing rapid adjustments to line density and thickness. This precision enables detailed depictions of dynamic skiing scenes, such as skiers' facial expressions and intricate textures of equipment.

### **2.2.2. Etching technique**

Etching is the most widely used traditional copperplate engraving technique. It involves immersing the engraved copper plate in an acidic solution, where the acid corrodes the surface to create recesses of varying depths. Ink is then applied to fill these recesses for printing. Depending on the engraving method, it can be subdivided into line etching, halftone etching, and other specialized processes. Its core artistic characteristics lie in rich, delicate textures and distinct layering. The depth of the acid-etched depressions determines ink absorption, yielding varied tonal gradations. This technique excels at simulating static scenes like the light and shadow layers of snowfields, the contour gradients of snow-capped mountains, and the intricate texture of rime ice. Simultaneously, the fluid lines created by line etching pair well with dynamic compositions, enabling the fusion of static and dynamic expressions. The etching technique delivers natural tonal transitions, creating serene yet expansive visual atmospheres. It excels at depicting the natural landscapes and static scenes of skiing regions, enhancing the image's delicacy and ambiance.

### **2.2.3. Dusting technique**

The dusting technique involves scattering powders like rosin or asphalt onto a copper plate surface. Heating melts the powders, causing them to adhere to the plate before acid etching. Areas covered by powder resist corrosion, forming a dense, dotted texture. The size and density of the powder particles determine the resulting texture effect. Its core artistic characteristics are soft, hazy textures and unique tactile qualities. The fine dotted texture can simulate the fluffy feel of snowfields, the crystalline particles of rime ice, and falling snowflakes in the air. By adjusting powder density, it can also create tonal gradients of varying depth, enhancing the image's layering and ethereal beauty. The dusting technique excels in depicting snowy landscapes, snowflake scenes, and misty rime ice in skiing-themed works, creating a delicate and soft visual atmosphere. It fills the gap in intricate texture expression left by dry-carving and etching techniques.

Each of these three traditional techniques has distinct strengths: drypoint excels at dynamic line expression, etching excels at layered tonal expression, and dusting excels at delicate texture expression. They can be used individually or combined, providing rich technical support for copperplate printmaking in skiing themes.

## **3. Influence dimensions of contemporary fashion aesthetics on the creation of ski-themed copperplate engraving**

With the rapid development of social culture, contemporary fashion aesthetics exhibit core characteristics of diversity, individuality, simplicity, and interactivity. It prioritizes both the comfort and uniqueness of visual experiences while emphasizing emotional resonance and cultural expression in works. Its influence on ski-themed copperplate print creation is primarily manifested in three core dimensions: subject selection, visual expression, and emotional transmission. This drives ski-themed copperplate print creation to align with the aesthetic demands of contemporary audiences.

### **3.1. Subject selection: Focusing on diversity and individuality to meet mass aesthetic demands**

Contemporary fashion aesthetics emphasizes thematic diversity and individuality, rejecting uniform and homogenized subjects. Simultaneously, it prioritizes themes connected to everyday life, pursuing choices that are both relatable and distinctive. Under this aesthetic influence, the selection of subjects for ski-themed

copperplate engravings no longer limits itself to traditional scenarios like competitive skiing or natural snow landscapes. Instead, it exhibits a trend toward diverse expansion: On one hand, it focuses on leisurely recreational skiing scenarios, exploring everyday skiing experiences such as parent-child skiing, couple skiing, and family snow activities. These themes resonate with ordinary audiences by reflecting relatable lifestyles, aligning with contemporary aesthetics' emphasis on "everyday life." On the other hand, attention is directed toward niche, personalized skiing scenarios, such as extreme skiing, the collision of vintage skiing equipment with modern skiing sports, and the fusion of Northeast Chinese folk customs with skiing. These subjects possess uniqueness and novelty, satisfying contemporary audiences' demand for personalized aesthetic expression, which emphasizes niche segmentation and differentiation to avoid repetitive content within similar themes. By precisely focusing on specific scenarios and emotions, they create works with distinctive recognition that align with the core demand for diverse individuality in contemporary fashion aesthetics.

### **3.2. Visual expression: Pursuing minimalist sophistication and enhanced visual tension**

Contemporary fashion aesthetics champion a minimalist, sophisticated visual style, discarding redundant elements in favor of clean compositions, harmonious color palettes, and heightened visual tension. Emphasis is placed on unique textural expression, pursuing a "less is more" visual impact. This aesthetic trend significantly influences the visual expression of skiing-themed copperplate prints: In composition, artists no longer pile elements indiscriminately but adopt minimalist layouts. By eliminating redundant details and focusing on core subjects—such as highlighting skiers' dynamic movements or the essential textures of snowy landscapes—they employ techniques like negative space, symmetry, and the golden ratio to create clean, expansive visuals that enhance the sense of breathing room and sophistication. In terms of color, minimalist palettes are adopted instead of the complex and vibrant color schemes of traditional copperplate prints. Foundational tones like black, white, and gray are complemented by subtle regional accents (e.g., Northeast red, snow white, deep brown), forming a harmonious chromatic system. Emphasis is placed on color gradients and contrasts, where the interplay of light and dark tones heightens visual tension, aligning with contemporary fashion's preference for refined, minimalist color schemes. In terms of texture, the expression of tactile qualities is intensified. Leveraging the strengths of copperplate engraving techniques, the artwork highlights the fluffy texture of snow, the metallic sheen of skiing equipment, and the linear texture of the body. This unique textural expression elevates the visual appeal of the composition, satisfying contemporary audiences' pursuit of textural aesthetics.

### **3.3. Emotional transmission: Highlighting spiritual resonance and conveying diverse values**

Contemporary fashion aesthetics transcend mere visual pleasure, prioritizing emotional resonance and spiritual depth within works. They pursue a spiritual connection between art and audience while emphasizing multifaceted value expression—conveying emotional resonance alongside cultural significance and the spirit of the times. Under this influence, the emotional transmission in ski-themed copperplate engravings exhibits deepened and multifaceted characteristics: On one hand, it focuses on individual emotional expression, delving into the subtle sentiments embedded in skiing scenarios—such as the perseverance in competitive skiing, the joyful relaxation in recreational skiing, or the tranquil contemplation in solitary moments on the snow. Through intricate visual details, it conveys authentic personal emotions, evoking audience resonance and fulfilling contemporary demands for emotional expression. On the other hand, it embodies regional culture and the spirit

of the times, integrating Northeast China's cultural essence and contemporary ethos into the art. For instance, ski-themed works convey the region's warm-heartedness, generosity, and optimistic regional spirit, while aligning with the development of the modern ice and snow industry to promote green ice and snow, joyful winter sports. Simultaneously, the fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary themes conveys the era's values of cultural inheritance and innovation. This approach endows the copperplate prints not only with visual aesthetic appeal but also with profound spiritual and cultural significance, aligning with the spiritual demands of contemporary fashion aesthetics.

## **4. Pathways for integrating traditional techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics in ski-themed copperplate engraving**

### **4.1. Technique adaptation: Precisely matching traditional techniques with aesthetic demands**

The fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics hinges on precisely aligning traditional copperplate engraving methods with the visual and expressive demands of modern aesthetics. This ensures techniques serve both aesthetic goals and thematic expression, preventing a disconnect between technique, aesthetics, and subject matter. In the article, Xie Jun expounds the logic of technique selection in printmaking: matching the corresponding techniques according to the theme, emotional appeal, and picture style<sup>[8]</sup>. To meet contemporary fashion aesthetics' requirements for diverse subjects, minimalist visuals, and refined textures, three categories of traditional techniques must be tailored through precise adaptation as follows.

For dynamic core subjects like mass-market recreational skiing or niche personalized skiing, prioritize a technique combination centered on drypoint with etching as a supplement: Using drypoint to precisely capture the skier's body dynamics and equipment movement through core lines. Leveraging the sharp tension of drypoint lines to capture rhythmic motion, aligning with contemporary aesthetics' demand for concise, precise expression of dynamic scenes. Simultaneously, incorporating line etching to render static backgrounds (e.g., simplified snow contours, minimal environmental elements). The fluid softness of etched lines balances the sharpness of dry-engraving, creating a harmonious interplay of motion and stillness. This approach highlights the dynamic subject while enriching visual layers, achieving a minimalist yet sophisticated aesthetic.

For core textural subjects like natural snow landscapes and static scenes, prioritizing a technique combination of etching as primary and dusting as secondary: Utilizing etching—combining halftone etching and line etching—to create snowy light-and-shadow gradients and layered mountain contours. Leveraging etching's natural tonal transitions to cultivate a minimalist, tranquil visual atmosphere, aligning with contemporary demands for refined simplicity. Simultaneously, the dusting technique employs particles of varying densities to depict the fluffy texture of snowfields, the crystalline quality of rime ice, and scenes of falling snowflakes. This enhances the delicate texture of the image, satisfying contemporary audiences' pursuit of tactile aesthetics. The result is a static image that is both minimalist and grand, while also offering a nuanced visual experience.

For subjects blending folk customs with skiing and conveying nuanced emotions, a combined technique of dry-point engraving, etching, and dust particle effects is employed: dry-point defines the line forms of central figures and folk elements; etching establishes tonal layers and environmental atmosphere; dust particle effects fill in detailed textures and carriers of emotional expression (such as snowflakes and light/shadow spots). This synergistic approach highlights the subject's multifaceted themes while meeting contemporary aesthetic demands for simplicity and refinement, dynamic and static balance, and achieving a unified harmony of subject

matter, technique, and aesthetic expression.

## **4.2. Visual innovation: Building on traditional techniques to meet contemporary aesthetic expression**

While basing on precisely matching techniques, it is essential to leverage the artistic strengths of traditional copperplate engraving. By integrating contemporary visual demands for fashionable aesthetics, innovate visual expression to achieve the modern transformation of traditional techniques, creating visual effects that blend traditional texture with contemporary aesthetic value.

In compositional innovation, centering on traditional line and texture expression, integrating minimalist contemporary principles are adopted: employing the precision of dry point to construct a concise pictorial framework, focusing on the core subject while minimizing redundant elements. Strategically utilize negative space techniques to enhance the work's sense of breathing and spatial depth through the interplay of extended lines and deliberate voids. For instance, when depicting a solo skier in motion, dry point is employed to capture the skier's core body lines and the gliding trajectory of the skis. The background utilizes expansive negative space, with only minimal etching lines outlining the simplified contours of snow-capped mountains. This approach highlights the textural quality of traditional linework while aligning with contemporary minimalist composition aesthetics, intensifying the visual focus on the central subject.

In color innovation, building upon the traditional monochrome printing of copperplate engraving while integrating contemporary minimalist color aesthetics, achieves a simplified yet distinctive expression. Retaining the traditional monochrome printing strengths of black, white, and gray tones, rich gradations are created through variations in dot density via etching and adjustments in particle density using the dusting technique, which results in a minimalist, sophisticated monochrome composition. Simultaneously, regionally distinctive minimalist hues are subtly integrated through selective color overprinting. Minimal color accents (such as Northeast Red or deep brown) are applied to core subjects or key details. This approach preserves the overall minimalist feel while enhancing individuality and regional character, aligning with contemporary fashion aesthetics that favor simple, harmonious color schemes and avoiding the complexity of traditional color expressions.

In texture innovation, fuse textural characteristics of three traditional techniques to create a unique composite texture, which satisfies contemporary audiences' pursuit of tactile aesthetics: layering the sharp line textures of dry-point engraving, gradient tonal textures of etching, and fine dot textures of dust-blowing. For instance, when depicting a snowboarding scene, dust-blowing creates the fluffy dot texture of snow, layered with the light-and-shadow gradient texture from etching, then enhanced with dry-carving to define the skier's silhouette and the gliding trail of the skis. The fusion of these three textures creates a richly layered, uniquely textured visual effect. This approach both preserves the textural strengths of traditional techniques and innovates their expression, aligning with contemporary fashion aesthetics' demand for distinctive tactile quality.

## **4.3. Deepening meaning: Using technique to convey aesthetics and diverse core values**

The deep integration of traditional techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics requires transcending mere visual compatibility. It demands synergy between technique, aesthetics, and meaning. Using traditional techniques as a vessel, combined with contemporary aesthetic demands, it conveys the emotional depth, regional cultural significance, and contemporary value of skiing themes, endowing the work with both visual

beauty and spiritual depth.

In conveying emotional resonance, traditional techniques capture nuanced sentiments within skiing scenes, aligning with contemporary aesthetic demands for emotional connection. Dry-carving techniques use rhythmic variations in lines to express skiers' states—fluid strokes convey ease and joy, while abrupt, staccato lines convey tension and determination. Through the tonal variations of etching, different emotional atmospheres are created—light tones convey warmth and relaxation, while deep tones evoke tranquility and depth. By adjusting the density of dust particles in the dust-blowing technique, emotional subtlety is enhanced—dense particles create a gentle, serene mood, while sparse particles suggest openness and freedom. This transforms traditional techniques into vehicles for emotional expression, rendering the artwork's sentiments more nuanced and authentic, thereby resonating spiritually with the audience.

In conveying regional cultural essence, traditional techniques serve as tools to excavate the distinctive characteristics of Northeast China's skiing culture, achieving a fusion of regional heritage and contemporary aesthetics: Dry-carving techniques depict the intricate details where Northeast folk elements intertwine with skiing, such as the lines of snow-covered folk decorations and the juxtaposition of traditional attire with skiing gear, highlighting regional folk traditions. Employing etching to render the natural topography of Northeast China's snowy landscapes, such as the gradient contours of snow-covered forests and the regional forms of rime ice, it conveys the distinctive natural features of the Northeast. Simultaneously, infusing Northeast regional spirit into technical expression—such as conveying the bold resilience of Northeast people through dry-carving's sharp, forceful lines, and expressing Northeast culture's inclusive diversity through etching's nuanced, gradual tones—enables traditional techniques to bear regional cultural significance. This approach ensures that works align with contemporary aesthetics while prominently showcasing Northeast regional identity.

In conveying contemporary values, the works address the era's demands for ice and snow industry development alongside cultural inheritance and innovation. By blending traditional techniques with modern aesthetics, they express the spirit of the times: Through depictions of mass skiing, they convey the era's concept of joyful and inclusive winter sports, aligning with the contemporary need for widespread ice and snow activity; By merging traditional techniques with contemporary themes, they communicate the era's value of cultural inheritance and innovation, highlighting the enduring vitality of traditional art. Simultaneously, incorporating green winter sports development principles, the works employ minimalist compositions and natural color palettes to convey ecological conservation values. This transforms the skiing-themed copperplate prints into artistic vessels for contemporary values, aligning with modern aesthetic preferences that prioritize spiritual depth alongside contemporary relevance.

## **5. Practical significance of integrating traditional techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics in creative practice**

### **5.1. Promoting the living transmission of traditional copperplate engraving techniques**

The transmission of traditional copperplate engraving techniques risks stagnation and irrelevance if detached from contemporary aesthetic demands. Integrating these techniques with contemporary fashion aesthetics provides a dynamic pathway for their preservation. By applying traditional techniques to contemporary themes like skiing that resonate with modern audiences, artists preserve the core craftsmanship and artistic characteristics of methods such as drypoint, etching, and dusting. Simultaneously, contemporary subject matter

and visual innovation reintroduce these techniques to a new generation, demonstrating their relevance and vitality in the present. Simultaneously, flexible adaptation and measured innovation of traditional techniques during this fusion process enrich their expressive forms, expand their application scenarios, and attract more creators to learn and inherit these methods. This achieves the living transmission and sustainable development of traditional copperplate engraving techniques.

## **5.2. Promoting creative innovation in ski-themed copperplate engravings**

The fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetic sensibilities breaks through the conventional constraints of ski-themed copperplate print creation, driving innovation across three dimensions: subject matter, visual presentation, and thematic depth. Subject matter achieves diverse expansion, moving beyond singular themes to establish a system of everyday, personalized subjects. Visually, it undergoes a transformation toward minimalist sophistication, creating effects aligned with contemporary aesthetics to enhance visual appeal. At the level of meaning, it enables deeper expression, conveying diverse emotions, regional cultures, and contemporary values to elevate the spiritual depth of the works. Contemporary printmaking should absorb the comprehensive media, non-linear narrative, surrealism, and so on, expand the boundary of printmaking expression, and enhance the openness and polysemy of the picture<sup>[9]</sup>. This fusion approach liberates ski-themed copperplate printmaking from traditional modes of expression, forming a creative style that combines traditional heritage, regional characteristics, and contemporary aesthetic value. It drives the innovative development of ski-themed copperplate printmaking, enhancing both the artistic value and market recognition of the works.

## **5.3. Facilitating the artistic dissemination and industrial integration of Northeast China's ice and snow culture**

Snow and ice are the iconic regional symbols of Northeast China woodcut art, serving as both a geographical landscape and a carrier of culture and spirit. Snow and ice woodcuts are a vital visual medium for shaping cultural images and disseminating regional spirit<sup>[10]</sup>. As an artistic medium for snow culture, ski-themed copperplate prints—through the fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetics—enhance audience reception and dissemination power, thereby advancing the artistic propagation of Northeast China's ice and snow culture. Copperplate prints aligned with contemporary aesthetics gain broader public appeal. Through exhibitions, online dissemination, and cultural-creative adaptations, these works enable wider audiences to discover Northeast skiing culture and experience the unique charm of Northeast ice and snow culture, thereby amplifying its regional influence and national reach. Simultaneously, these fusion-style ski-themed copperplate prints can deeply integrate with Northeast China's snow and ice industry. Through cultural and creative product development (such as print derivatives and snow tourism souvenirs), artistic decoration of snow and ice venues, and artistic promotion of snow and ice events, they achieve synergistic conversion of cultural and industrial value. This empowers the integrated development of Northeast China's snow and ice industry and cultural industry, driving the high-quality development of the region's snow and ice economy.

## **6. Conclusion**

The fusion of traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetic sensibilities in ski-themed copperplate engraving represents an inevitable trend in preserving traditional art while innovating contemporary expression. It also serves as a core pathway for unlocking regional cultural value and meeting modern aesthetic demands.

Northeast China's skiing culture, with its diverse themes, varied forms, and deep emotional resonance, provides rich material for copperplate engraving. Traditional techniques such as drypoint, etching, and dusting offer robust support for expressing skiing subjects through their unique artistic characteristics. Contemporary aesthetic sensibilities, meanwhile, provide modern adaptation directions across three dimensions: subject selection, visual expression, and emotional conveyance.

Integrating these elements requires precise technical adaptation, innovative visual expression, and deepened thematic resonance to achieve a synergistic unity between traditional techniques and contemporary aesthetics. This approach preserves the artistic essence of traditional copperplate engraving while aligning with modern audience preferences and highlighting the distinctive characteristics of Northeast China's skiing culture. This fusion not only advances the living inheritance of traditional copperplate engraving techniques and the creative innovation of skiing-themed works but also propels the artistic dissemination and industrial integration of Northeast China's snow and ice culture, holding significant theoretical value and practical significance.

Moving forward, ski-themed copperplate engraving should deepen its exploration of blending traditional techniques with contemporary aesthetics. It needs continuously expanding thematic dimensions, innovating in technique application, and enriching expressive depth. By integrating contemporary elements and innovative concepts aligned with evolving societal needs, it can produce outstanding works that embody traditional heritage, regional identity, and contemporary relevance. This approach will propel the development of copperplate engraving art and the dissemination of Northeast China's ice and snow culture toward higher-quality advancement.

## Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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