

# Research on Emotional Expression of Thick Painting Techniques in Contemporary Landscape Oil Paintings

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**Abstract:** Thick painting technique is an expressive creative method in oil painting. With the thick accumulation of pigments, the three-dimensional shaping of texture, and the emotional expression contained in brush strokes, the visual style and spiritual connotation of contemporary landscape oil painting are reconstructed. In terms of the development process of art history, the thick painting technique has gradually gotten rid of the function of simply reproducing objective things and turned to express emotion and spirit in depth from the embryonic stage of the classical period, the development of impressionism period, and the maturity of the contemporary era. In the process of contemporary landscape oil painting creation, artists use the material characteristics of the thick painting technique to integrate the objective form of natural landscape with their own subjective emotional experience, and convey natural artistic conception, life philosophy, and cultural feelings through the construction of texture, brushwork, and color. Based on the contemporary artistic environment, this paper deeply analyzes the artistic characteristics of thick painting technique and its function as an emotional carrier, explores the internal relationship between thick painting formal language and emotional core, comprehensively explains its aesthetic value and spiritual significance in contemporary landscape creation, and gives the corresponding emotional expression practice path, providing professional reference and academic opinions for perfecting the theoretical system of emotional expression in contemporary oil painting landscape and guiding artistic creation practice.

**Keywords:** Thick coating technique; Contemporary landscape oil painting; Emotional expression; Internal connection; Aesthetic value

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## 1. Introduction

Landscape oil painting is the key carrier for artists to express their feelings and show their natural and humanistic concepts, and the application of techniques is related to the depth and breadth of emotional

transmission. The thick coating technique is a core means to break through tradition and strengthen emotional expression in contemporary landscape oil painting with strong materiality, distinct texture, and free expression. Different from the delicacy and introversion of classical transparent contemporary landscape oil painting, it forms a relief stereoscopic touch by stacking and scraping pigments, builds a perception bridge from vision to touch, and builds a multi-dimensional carrier for emotional expression. Under the trend of contemporary pluralistic art integration, landscape oil painting has changed from objective representation to subjective expression, and thick painting technique has become the conscious choice of artists' emotional externalization and spiritual expression, combining the tension of Western expressionism with the artistic conception of oriental freehand brushwork. Based on this, this paper will deeply analyze its technical characteristics, explore the emotional relevance logic, tap into the aesthetic value, and provide theoretical support and practical guidance for the thick painting creation of contemporary landscape oil paintings.

## **2. The artistic characteristics and emotional carrier function of thick painting techniques**

### **2.1. The core artistic characteristics of the thick coating technique**

The core of the thick coating technique lies in the deep excavation of the material characteristics of oil painting pigments. Through the layered stacking and thick covering of thick pigments, three-dimensional texture is created, which breaks the traditional contemporary landscape oil painting's flat presentation mode. One of its outstanding characteristics is the remarkable texture. Pigments accumulate on the canvas to form a patchy surface structure, and the rough, heavy, and smart texture changes break through the constraints of the two-dimensional plane and give the picture a sculptural three-dimensional sense. Whether it is the neat lines left by the scraper or the thick color blocks stacked by the brush, the picture has a real tactile texture, which enhances the dual feelings of vision and touch. Secondly, the brushwork is expressive. In the state of thick painting, the traces of brush strokes are clearly discernible, and the changes in length, thickness, frustration and circulation become the direct expression of the artist's feelings. The rapid brushstrokes convey passionate emotions, while the soothing brushstrokes express a quiet state of mind. The rhythm and rhythm of brushstrokes directly reflect the inner fluctuations. Moreover, the color tension is strong. Thick-coated pigments have high color saturation and strong coverage, and the superposition of color layers can produce rich color levels and optical effects, and the contrast between cold and warm, light and dark, and fresh gray is more prominent. Color is no longer limited to the reproduction of objects, but has become an independent language for emotional expression. Finally, the freedom of expression space provides a broad world for artists to express their subjective feelings and personalities <sup>[1]</sup>.

### **2.2. Thick coating technique as the core function of emotional carrier**

Thick painting technique is the link of emotion transmission, which can closely connect the artist's subjective emotion and objective scenery. First, convey emotions with material characteristics. The thickness and thickness of pigments can be transformed into emotional symbols; thick stacking can convey a deep and strong feeling; thin painting can express a soft and tranquil meaning; rough texture shows bold and unrestrained; delicate and thick plastic reflects gentle and calm, and material characteristics accurately echo emotional state. Second, create an atmosphere with texture. Different texture forms can create different emotional artistic conceptions. Thick texture as hard as rock conveys vigor and grandeur, fluffy and soft

thick texture creates warmth and quietness, staggered and messy texture shows restlessness, flat and heavy color blocks show calmness and solemnity, and texture directly lays the emotional tone of the picture. Third, project emotions by brush strokes. Every brush stroke is the imprint of the artist's emotion, and the emotional state during creation will be naturally revealed through the strength, speed and direction of the brush stroke, thus realizing the emotional transmission of "the pen is the voice." Fourth, rely on color to strengthen resonance. Thick colors amplify emotional tension, warm colors convey enthusiasm, joy, and hope, cold colors create tranquility, melancholy, and vastness, and colors merge with texture and brush strokes to form a complete emotional expression system, which arouses strong resonance among viewers <sup>[2]</sup>.

### **3. The internal relationship between the language expression of the thick painting technique and the emotional core**

Thick painting language and emotional core are not isolated from each other, but build a complete logical chain of "material carrier-formal expression-spiritual transmission", which embodies the dialectical unity of technique and emotion, which is also the key to relevance logic in the abstract.

On the material level, the pigment characteristics and texture morphology of the thick coating technique are the basis of emotional expression. Emotional transmission needs the help of the physical properties of pigments. Without the material support of thick texture and vivid brushwork, it is difficult to find a concrete expression carrier of subjective emotion, which forms the basic connection of "material bearing emotion" and transforms emotion from abstract feeling to perceptual visual form.

On the formal level, there is a one-to-one relationship between texture, brushwork, color, and emotional core. The density, softness, and ups and downs of the texture correspond to the soothing, intense, and calm emotions; The importance, urgency, and trend of brush strokes correspond to the rhythm and fluctuation of emotions; The warmth and coldness of colors, fresh gray and shade correspond to the tone and tendency of emotions. This precise combination of form and emotion enables the thick painting technique to achieve "unity of form and meaning", and the change of form becomes the visual presentation of emotion, building a direct bridge between the technical language and the emotional core.

From the spiritual level, thick painting language is ultimately committed to the deep communication of the emotional core, and the fundamental purpose of technique application lies in spiritual expression and emotional expression. In contemporary landscape oil painting, the thick painting technique has surpassed the simple modeling function and become the artistic language of spiritual expression. Through individualized application of techniques, artists integrate natural feelings, humanistic feelings, and life philosophies, making formal language an extension of the emotional core, realizing the sublimation from visual expression to spiritual resonance, and achieving the deep connection between techniques and emotions <sup>[3]</sup>.

## **4. The aesthetic value and spiritual significance of the thick painting technique in contemporary landscape oil painting**

### **4.1. Contemporary aesthetic value presentation**

The thick painting technique brings brand-new aesthetic value to contemporary landscape oil painting. First, broaden the visual aesthetic boundary, break through the plane limitation of traditional contemporary landscape oil paintings, create a unique experience of blending touch and vision with three-dimensional texture and heavy texture, strengthen visual impact and artistic infection, and create a new aesthetic model

with concrete quantity and expressiveness. Secondly, enrich the aesthetic structure of form, upgrade the texture, brushwork, and color from modeling assistance to independent aesthetic elements, so that the language of technique has its own aesthetic value, and the viewer can feel the natural beauty and artistic beauty of technique at the same time, thus enhancing the aesthetic level of form. Third, to achieve the integration of traditional and contemporary aesthetics, which not only retains the aesthetic feeling of classic oil paintings, but also conforms to the trend of contemporary art pursuing individuality and subjective expression, and meets the aesthetic needs of the public, so that traditional landscape oil paintings can glow with new brilliance in the contemporary era.

## **4.2. Artistic spiritual significance**

Thick painting technique endows contemporary landscape oil painting with profound spiritual implication and unique artistic value. First, highlight the authenticity of emotional expression. The improvisation and intuition of thick painting technique enable artists to directly pour their inner feelings into the picture, abandon deliberate carving and false whitewashing, and return to the true nature of artistic expression of emotions. Second, inherit and carry forward the humanistic spirit. Thick-coated creation is integrated with awe of nature, nostalgia for native land, and thinking about life, which makes landscape oil painting go beyond the simple description of nature, bear the core of profound humanistic spirit, and promote the inheritance and development of the humanistic heritage of contemporary art. Third, promote the expression of the local spirit of oil painting. Combining the oriental freehand brushwork spirit with the western thick painting techniques, thick painting landscape oil painting contains oriental aesthetic artistic conception and cultural spirit, which helps China's contemporary oil painting to form a unique artistic spirit core and enhance the spiritual height and cultural recognition of local oil painting<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **5. The practical path of thick painting technique in emotional expression in contemporary landscape oil painting**

### **5.1. Rooted in natural perception, build a solid foundation for emotional expression**

Real natural perception is the key basis for the thick painting technique to realize emotional expression<sup>[5]</sup>. Only by going deep into nature can emotional expression be real and moving, and the separation between technique and emotion can be prevented. Creators need to abandon the mode of being divorced from reality and creating behind closed doors, actively participate in nature, go deep into natural environments such as mountains, wilderness, mountains and rivers, lakes and rivers, and capture the original texture, morphological characteristics and fresh breath of natural scenery in different seasons and different lighting conditions through whole-hearted observation and sketching, so as to transform visual intuitive impression into emotional touch in the deep heart and find the resonance between natural scenery and personal feelings.

### **5.2. Accurately control formal language to improve the accuracy of emotional expression**

Accurately controlling the three formal languages of texture, brushwork, and color is the key point to enhance the accuracy of the emotional expression of thick painting techniques. Creators should master the expression rules of thick painting techniques skillfully and flexibly choose suitable expression techniques according to different emotional expression themes and scenic artistic conception, so as to achieve the precise docking of techniques and emotions. When depicting bold and open natural landscapes such as mountains

and deserts, and conveying heroic and deep emotions, artists can use a scraper to pile them up in a large area and paint them with gravity strokes, so as to create a rough and hard texture with obvious ups and downs, and then match them with deep and heavy colors such as ochre, dark green and deep blue to highlight the heroic characteristics of emotions; When depicting quiet and gentle scenery such as countryside and woods, and conveying calm and soothing emotions, artists use the technique of stacking delicate brushes layer by layer and scraping gently to form a moist, smooth, delicate and soft texture, supplemented by light yellow, light green, off-white and other elegant and fresh colors to create a quiet atmosphere. At the same time, artists should pay attention to the unity and coordination of formal language, prevent the disorder of texture, brushwork, and color, and let the three elements work together around the core emotion to improve the accuracy of emotional expression in an all-round way, so that viewers can quickly perceive the core emotion of the picture through vision <sup>[6]</sup>.

### **5.3. Integration of diverse artistic experience, broaden the dimensions of emotional expression**

The creation of contemporary thick-coated landscape oil paintings should not be limited to a single artistic thinking, but should take into account the Western artistic concept and the oriental artistic spirit to achieve organic integration. On the one hand, drawing lessons from western expressionism, giving full play to the material characteristics of thick painting techniques, strengthening the direct expression of emotions and personality display, enhancing the visual tension of pictures, and making emotional expression more straightforward and shocking; On the other hand, it deeply absorbs the essence of Oriental freehand brushwork art, which is “blending scenes and depicting spirit with shapes.” It does not excessively pursue the realistic presentation of natural images and does not deliberately pursue the precise restoration of shapes. It focuses on creating artistic conception and conveying spiritual feelings, so that the works have both visual texture and artistic conception connotation <sup>[7]</sup>. At the same time, artists should integrate innovative thinking of contemporary art, conform to the aesthetic trend of the times, break through the traditional creative mode of thick painting moderately, and integrate the spirit of the times into the application of techniques and color matching, so that emotional expression can meet the spiritual world and aesthetic needs of contemporary people, so that thick painting landscape oil paintings have both traditional artistic connotation and contemporary artistic vitality, and broaden the dimensions of emotional expression in all directions.

### **5.4. Shaping personalized expression style, highlighting the uniqueness of emotional expression**

Individualization is the soul of artistic emotional expression. Only by creating a unique, creative style of thick painting can emotional expression avoid similarity and have a unique artistic charm. Creators should inherit the classic thick painting techniques, jump out of the framework, and gradually explore the application methods with personal characteristics according to their own aesthetic preferences, life experiences, emotional tendencies, and creative habits. In the aspect of texture shaping, artists can try a variety of stacking, scraping and painting techniques to create a unique texture effect; In the application of brush strokes, combined with their own creative rhythm, they form a brush stroke style of fast and slow, light and heavy; In terms of color matching, artists should build a color system that conforms to personal preferences and emotions, so that the application of techniques can be branded with a distinct personal imprint. At the same time, artists should stick to the original intention of creation, keep the purity of emotional expression, do not

blindly follow popular styles, and do not deliberately pile up techniques, so that thick painting techniques can truly serve the expression of inner feelings, so that each work carries unique spiritual sentiment and emotional connotation. In addition, artists can try new oil painting materials and media to enrich the texture and color expression, further enhance the recognition of personal style, make emotional expression more unique and infectious, and enhance the artistic vitality of works <sup>[8]</sup>.

## 6. Conclusion

Thick painting technique has become the key artistic language of emotional expression of contemporary landscape oil paintings with its unique material attributes and formal expressive force. It is closely connected with the emotional core and has aesthetic value and spiritual significance, which makes it occupy an important position in the field of contemporary oil painting. Thick painting techniques, from technical characteristics to emotional bearing, and then from formal construction to spiritual transmission, formed a complete logical framework of emotional expression. It not only enriches the visual aesthetics and formal implication of contemporary landscape oil paintings, but also conveys humanistic spirit and artistic emotion, and achieves an effective integration of techniques and spirit. If contemporary art creators can take root in natural perception, study formal language, integrate diverse ideas, and stick to their original intention, they can make thick painting techniques better help emotional expression and make landscape oil paintings have both artistic charm and spiritual thickness. In the wave of diversified development of contemporary art, thick painting techniques will continuously release artistic energy, inject impetus into the innovative development of contemporary landscape oil painting, and promote the improvement of the emotional expression system of oil painting art.

## Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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