

# Comparison of Chinese and Foreign Art under the “Belt and Road” Initiative

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**Abstract:** In the context of the “Belt and Road” art creation, the Silk Road is the theme, trying to create a new form of aesthetics. The artistic creation of Chinese and foreign artists is driven by the spirit of the “Belt and Road” and the historical stories on the Silk Road as backgrounds. The artists have expressed their cultural propositions and demands with unique regional culture and artistic language, highlighting the Silk Road’s impact on the present. significance. Although there are many differences between Chinese and foreign cultures in many aspects of the work, it still reflects the common recognition of the “Belt and Road” in many details, achieving a high degree of integration between the theme and language, and spirit and form.

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## 1 Introduction

The "Belt and Road" strategy is an important strategic idea put forward by President Xi Jinping in 2013, which refers to the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "21st Century Maritime Silk Road". This Chinese-Western way of economic, trade, and communication with Chinese silk as the medium has been continuously developed and extended along with the exchange of ancient Chinese and Western cultures. The "Belt and Road" is not only a great way of commerce and trade in the history of mankind. East and west, a continuous stream of envoys and caravans, show a variety of styles on this ancient business road; it is also the most spectacular "culture" The “Canal”, the

cultures of different civilizations, through those cultural communicators, exchange and learn from each other through the “Belt and Road”.

Anorld Toynbee (1889-1975), a famous historian. His ten volumes of "History Studies" tell the history and rise and fall of many major nations in the world. Toynbee puts forward the phrase "traveling around the island" in the book, and one of them is about the area through which the East Asian China Silk Road passes, that is, the Central Asia Amu Darya region on the "Belt and Road". Toynbee showed us a mural of "Chinese Silk Princess" in the book. The picture shows the combination and innovation between multiple religions and traditional Chinese culture and art.

In 2011, the "Silk Road" art creation project led by China National Academy of Painting was officially launched; in 2015, this project was officially renamed the "Belt and Road" international art project, and the "Belt and Road" international art project was undertaken by the China National Academy of Painting National key art project. Zhang Xiaoling mentioned in the article ."Belt and Road" that international art engineering is not only a product of the new era, but also a manifestation of the spirit of the new era: "Major subject matter creation is a huge systematic project, not an individual artist can complete<sup>[1]</sup>. It covers a wide range of fields such as history, nationality, philosophy, religion, humanities, science and technology. In the Western art discipline, the creation of major subjects (historical paintings) is a specialized discipline, which ranks above each discipline. It requires artists to master specialized languages .At the same time of technology, we must also have the cultural, historical, and philosophical background ... "We can see from a large part of these works that many artists have unique artistic expressions and techniques, thereby conveying

their understanding of the Silk Road art creation and thinking. "The Silk Road is a living road. As long as the Silk Road is active, the countries and towns along it are also active; the Silk Road has changed with the changes of politics and religion in different eras. It has played a historical role in a particular era<sup>[2]</sup>. " Artists sketch and create works in countries and regions along the " Belt and Road ", covering various types of artistic expression such as Chinese painting, oil painting, printmaking, and sculpture.

In fact, at the moment, the concept of the Silk Road is different among artists with different cultural backgrounds in different countries and regions. The thematic significance is different, and this difference in understanding makes these works of art show diverse artistic characteristics. Among the works of some foreign artists, we can clearly see that they have borrowed and applied traditional Chinese cultural elements on the basis of their national historical background. Regardless of the content, themes, or expressions of their paintings, their work reflects the artist's emphasis on his own regional value and his emphasis on traditional culture.

Foreign artists are full of creativity and lively artistic works. To a certain extent, the interpretation of the Silk Road has been innovative and breakthrough, and it has also provided us with a broader idea of deeper interpretation of the Silk Road. They are not confined to realist artistic styles. It is difficult for us to appreciate these works with ordinary realist viewing methods. The metaphors, symbols and other narrative methods they embody are important to our understanding of current works of art. Great inspiration.

Gerard Fromange is a famous French artist. He was one of the representative painters of the French "new figurative" art movement born in the early 1960s. In the creation of new figurative painting, the scope of the painter's subject matter has been expanded, the traditional classical realistic painting has been refuted, the expression of formal language is more diverse, and it has extremely vigorous vitality. New figurative painting opens up a new field of realistic painting in realism, and truly develops tradition. In the work "Silk Road" painted by painter Gerard Fromange, the painter uses rich symbols that have been distinctively distinctive, and uses strong color blocks and lines to attract viewers, making the viewers have a strong influence on the picture. Explain desire. "The painter is trying to express the interaction and communication

between people, which may also imply the expectation of social stability and world peace<sup>[3]</sup>. "

Uzbekistan is one of the core areas in the history of ancient Central Asian civilization. It has famous historical cities such as Bukhara and Samarkand. The Uzbekist painter Ibrahim Valihozayev has an oil painting entitled "The Great Bazaar". The characters and scenes in the picture are presented by the artist in very simple shapes and colors. We can see clothing and architecture full of national colors, and we can feel the lively and prosperous trade on the Silk Road through strong color contrast. In addition, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and many other Middle Eastern countries occupy an important position on the Silk Road and are important channels for the Silk Road. On August 9, 2018, Chinese painter Zhang Biyun held an art exhibition in Kazakhstan. Paintings include not only traditional freehand flowers and birds, but also some highly innovative oil paintings. At present, with the proposal and construction of the "Belt and Road", we can see the new look of the Silk Road from the works of many artists.

As a country with a long history in the world, China will undoubtedly play an important role in the construction of the community of human destiny. The main forms of Chinese contemporary art creation are still major historical themes including the "Belt and Road". Chinese artists have different degrees of interpretation of the "Belt and Road" spirit and theme in different ways in the theme of the "Belt and Road". The artist has a full understanding of the "Belt and Road". On the one hand, he has fully maintained the heritage of traditional Chinese painting. On the basis of this, he has combined personal characteristics and constructed a unique artistic language and aesthetic style.

Guo Beiping had an in-depth study of traditional Chinese painting characters, flowers and birds, landscapes, etc. in his early years. In his later paintings, most of his works were filled with the sentiment of traditional Chinese painting. In the process of realism, he emphasized the expression of artistic language Force, the right combination of realism and freehand. This is the case of his portrait oil painting "Purple Scarf". The composition of the picture is rigorous, and he pays attention to the "vitality and vitality" advocated in traditional Chinese painting. The characterization of the characters is reflected in seemingly casual brush strokes. The painter's feelings are very strong, but the expression method is subtle and natural. The

oil painting works show the temperament of Chinese culture. "The freehandness of his oil painting is actually a meeting point he seeks between China and the West, realism and expressiveness, which reflects his absorption of the cultural essence conveyed by western oil painting and his understanding of the freehand spirit of traditional Chinese painting. inherit."

"As the earliest comprehension of the" Belt and Road "spirit, the works of Chinese artists have responded to the theme of" Silk Road and World Civilization "with the breadth of the subject matter, the diversity of forms, and the diversity of methods." "Belt As a kind of historical experience, we can have an opportunity to learn about the history of communication between Chinese and foreign arts from ancient times to the present, which is more conducive to promoting the innovative development of Chinese and foreign arts in the new era and new context. However, it is precisely because the "Belt and Road" initiative is proposed by China that the Chinese people generally have a stronger understanding of the "Belt and Road" and their

interpretations are more specific and contextual. As a result, some foreigners have a sense of strangeness to this concept, and the communication between Chinese and foreign arts is still inadequate in depth. However, as the "Belt and Road" spreads more widely and profoundly, with the interaction of artists, Chinese and foreign aesthetic ideas will It has been used for reference in long-term painting practice, which has a positive impact on the promotion of world art to a certain extent.

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