

# Characteristics and Practice of Decorative Language in Contemporary Chinese Oil Painting Art

Fanyi Yang\*

Jilin University of Art, Changchun 130031, Jilin Province, China

\*Corresponding author: Fanyi Yang, fanyi6617@163.com

**Copyright:** © 2024 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

**Abstract:** This paper deeply discusses the characteristics of decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art, analyzes its performance in form, color, and composition, and expounds on the application of decorative language in contemporary oil painting practice with specific artists' works. Through the study of this unique artistic language, this paper reveals the innovation and development of China's contemporary oil painting in integrating traditional and modern, Eastern and Western artistic elements, and provides theoretical reference and practical enlightenment for the further development of China's contemporary oil painting art.

**Keywords:** Contemporary Chinese oil painting; Decorative language; Characteristic; Practice

**Online publication:** January 2, 2025

## 1. Introduction

In today's art in China, contemporary oil painting is unique with its diverse forms of expression and rich connotations. Among them, the use of decorative language has injected new vitality and charm into China's contemporary oil paintings. Decorative language is not a simple external decoration, but a unique artistic expression. It combines many elements such as gorgeous colors, innovative graphics, and ingenious composition, which not only carries the artist's perception and thinking about life but also shows the ultimate pursuit of beauty. From the characteristics, decorative language gives oil paintings a strong visual impact. Bright color contrast, unique graphic processing, and rhythmic composition of the work catch the audience's eyes in an instant. At the same time, it also incorporates the essence of traditional culture, showing a profound national heritage. In practice, many artists actively explore the infinite possibilities of decorative language in oil painting creation. They boldly use new materials and technologies, combine tradition with modernity, and create amazing artistic worlds. Through the practice of decorative language, China's contemporary oil paintings not only shine brilliantly on the domestic art stage but also emerge in the international art field. An in-depth study of

the decorative language characteristics and practice of China's contemporary oil painting art will help us better understand the development trend of contemporary art, feel the innovative spirit and creativity of artists, and provide beneficial enlightenment for promoting the continuous progress of China's oil painting art.

## **2. The concept and development of decorative language in contemporary oil painting art in China**

In the pluralistic pattern of contemporary art, the decorative language of China's contemporary oil painting art has become a beautiful landscape with its unique charm and expressive force. Decorative language refers to the use of decorative elements, techniques, and forms in oil painting creation to enhance the visual effect and aesthetic value of works.

### **2.1. Conceptual analysis**

The decorative language of China's contemporary oil painting art is mainly reflected in the following aspects: First, the use of color. Decorative language often uses bright and contrasting tints to attract the attention of the audience<sup>[1]</sup>. Color is no longer just an imitation of nature, but an important means to express feelings and ideas. Through the collocation and combination of colors, we can create a different atmosphere and emotional tone. Secondly, the processing of graphics. Decorative language pays attention to the simplification, deformation, and exaggeration of graphics. Artists often simplify and abstract natural forms and create graphics with a unique sense of form. These figures can be geometric shapes, organic forms, or symbolic symbols, which are combined and interspersed with each other in the picture to form a visual effect with a sense of rhythm. Furthermore, the design of composition. Decorative language emphasizes the formal beauty of the picture and the rationality of composition. Artists make their works have balanced, harmonious, and stable visual effects by carefully designing the layout, proportion, and spatial relationship of the pictures. At the same time, decorative language often uses symmetry, repetition, gradual change, and other composition techniques to enhance the decorative and rhythmic sense of works.

### **2.2. Development process**

The decorative language of contemporary oil painting art in China has experienced a long and tortuous development process. In the early 20th century, with the introduction of Western oil paintings, oil painting artists in China began to get in touch with the decorative styles in modern Western art. Influenced by the Western decorative art movement, some artists attempted to use decorative language and techniques in oil painting creation. However, in the social background at that time, realism was the mainstream of oil painting art, and the development of decorative language was limited to some extent. After the founding of New China, the art of oil painting has developed rapidly in the upsurge of socialist construction. During this period, oil paintings mainly focused on expressing revolutionary history and real life, and decorative language was relatively less used. However, some artists still try to use some decorative elements in their creations, such as folk patterns and colors, to enhance the national characteristics and artistic appeal of their works<sup>[2]</sup>. Since the reform and opening up, China's oil painting art has ushered in new development opportunities. With the influx of Western modern art and post-modern art, China oil painting artists began to be more widely exposed to various artistic styles and expressions. In this process, decorative language has been paid more and more attention and has become an important direction for some artists to explore and innovate. Some artists draw lessons from the decorative styles in Western modern art and combine elements of China's traditional culture and folk art to

create decorative oil paintings with Chinese characteristics. In the 21st century, the decorative language of contemporary oil painting art in China has been more widely developed and applied. Under the background of globalization, artists pay more attention to the excavation and expression of local culture, and at the same time actively absorb and integrate various cultural elements. As an important artistic expression, decorative language is used by more and more artists. Some artists combine traditional decorative art with contemporary oil painting creation through research and innovation and create works with profound cultural backgrounds and characteristics of the times. At the same time, with the continuous progress of science and technology, digital technology also provides new means and possibilities for the decorative language of oil painting art. To sum up, the decorative language of contemporary oil painting art in China has gradually developed in the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures. It has not only the decorative style of modern Western art but also the elements of Chinese traditional culture and folk art, forming an artistic language with unique charm and value. In the future development, the decorative language of contemporary oil painting art in China will continue to innovate and develop, and make greater contributions to the prosperity of oil painting art in China.

### **3. Value analysis of decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art**

From the perspective of aesthetic value, decorative language enriches the expression forms of oil painting. It brings a novel visual experience to the audience with its unique formal beauty, such as planarization, exaggeration and deformation, and repeated symmetry<sup>[3]</sup>. Bright colors and full composition methods enhance the visual impact of the works and augment the aesthetic level of oil paintings. In terms of cultural value, decorative integration of language embodies cultural elements of tradition and modernity, East and West. It not only inherits the essence of decorative arts in Chinese traditional culture, such as the colors and patterns of folk art, but also absorbs the innovative ideas of modern art. This fusion has injected profound cultural connotations into China's contemporary oil paintings and promoted the exchange and integration between different cultures. In terms of social value, decorative language makes oil paintings closer to life and full of the flavor of the times. Artists express their concern and thinking about social reality through decorative language, and their works can reflect the current social outlook and people's mental state. At the same time, decorative oil paintings are more easily accepted and appreciated by the public, which has played a certain role in social education and cultural communication. In a word, the decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art has diversified values and meanings, which has made positive contributions to the development of oil painting art and the progress of social culture.

### **4. The characteristics of decorative language in contemporary oil painting art in China**

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil paintings shows unique and rich characteristics, which bring new vitality and charm to oil painting creation.

#### **4.1. Unique charm of color**

Decorative language is bold and creative in the use of color. On the one hand, high saturation colors are often used, such as bright red, bright yellow, and rich blue. These colors have a strong visual impact and can quickly attract the attention of the audience. For example, the painter Shaoguang Ding's works often use gorgeous colors to show a unique decorative beauty with rich tint. On the other hand, the contrast of colors is also a major

feature. Strong cold and warm contrast and complementary color contrast make the picture full of tension and vitality. In the painter Chunya Zhou's "Peach Blossom" series, the pink peach blossoms are in sharp contrast with the green branches and leaves, giving people a vibrant feeling <sup>[4]</sup>.

#### **4.2. Innovative handling of graphics**

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil paintings has innovated the graphics. Simplification is one of the common techniques, which simplifies complex natural forms into simple geometric shapes or abstract graphics. This processing makes the picture more concise and clearer, with a strong sense of form. For example, in Guanzhong Wu's works, the scenery of Jiangnan water town is often simplified as a combination of lines and geometric figures, showing a unique decorative charm. Deformation and exaggeration are also important features. Through the deformation and exaggeration of graphics, artists highlight the characteristics of the objects and enhance the expressive force and artistic appeal of their works. For example, in the works of painter Minjun Yue, the characters are exaggerated and distorted, conveying a sense of humor and absurdity with unique visual effects.

#### **4.3. Ingenious design of composition**

Decorative language pays attention to the ingenious design of composition to create a harmonious and balanced visual effect. Symmetrical composition is often used, giving people a sense of stability and solemnity. At the same time, repetition, gradual change, and other composition techniques are also common. By repeating the same or similar graphic elements, or gradually changing the size and color of the graphics, a picture with a sense of rhythm is formed. For example, painter Yu Chang's works often present concise and rhythmic beauty in composition.

#### **4.4. Integration of traditional cultural elements**

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art also actively integrates traditional cultural elements, showing a profound cultural heritage. Traditional patterns and decorative patterns, such as dragon and phoenix patterns, moire patterns, and palindromes, are skillfully applied to oil painting creation, giving the works unique national characteristics. Painter Fanzhi Ceng's "The Last Supper" has integrated the traditional cultural elements of China, which gives the work a contemporary artistic flavor and shows the inheritance and innovation of traditional culture.

#### **4.5. Reflection of the spirit of the times**

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art is not only the pursuit of form but also the embodiment of the spirit of the times. In today's fast-developing society, artists express their feelings about modern life, their thinking about social problems, and their vision for the future through decorative language. The works reflect the aesthetic concept, value orientation, and spiritual pursuit of contemporary people and have a strong sense of the times. In a word, the decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art, with its unique colors, graphics, composition, the integration of traditional culture, and the embodiment of the spirit of the times, has brought a colorful visual feast to the audience. It not only enriches the expression forms of oil painting art but also injects new vitality into the development of contemporary art in China.

## **5. Practical application of decorative language in contemporary oil painting art in China**

In the field of contemporary oil painting art in China, the practice of decorative language has brought new vitality and unique charm to oil painting creation. Decorative language is not a simple pile of decorative elements, but a creative and expressive form of artistic expression, which combines traditional and modern, Eastern and Western artistic elements and shows rich and diverse artistic features.

### **5.1. Bold use and innovation of color**

Color is one of the most intuitive and important elements in decorative language. In contemporary oil painting art, artists boldly use bright and contrasting colors to create a strong visual impact and emotional atmosphere. For example, the painter Ping Yan's works often show unique decorative beauty with bold tints. She is good at using bright colors such as pink, blue, and yellow to make the picture full of vitality through color contrast and echo <sup>[5]</sup>. In her series of works "Mother and Son," warm color collocation conveys deep mother-child feelings and shows the unique charm of decorative language in color application.

### **5.2. Deformation and reconstruction of graphics**

The deformation and reconstruction of graphics is an important means in decorative language practice <sup>[6]</sup>. Artists create graphics with a unique sense of form by simplifying, deforming, and exaggerating the natural form. This graphic processing method can not only enhance the decoration of the work but also convey the artist's personal feelings and ideas. For example, painter Chunya Zhou's "Green Dog" series exaggerates the image of the dog and presents it in a unique green tone, which gives people a strong visual impact. Through the reconstruction of dog graphics, Chunya Zhou expressed his love for life and thought about human nature.

### **5.3. Innovation and breakthrough of composition**

Decorative language often makes innovations and breakthroughs in composition. Traditional oil painting composition pays attention to realism and the creation of a sense of space, while decorative language composition pays more attention to the expression of formal beauty and rhythm. Artists use symmetry, repetition, gradual change, and other composition techniques to give the picture harmonious and stable visual effects. At the same time, they will also break the traditional composition rules and adopt free and flexible composition methods to create works full of individuality and creativity. For example, the painter Yang Shang's series of "Great Scenery" adopts the composition method of collage and combination, combining different image elements to create a picture with a strong decorative feeling. This innovative composition not only shows the creativity of artists but also provides new ideas for the development of contemporary oil painting art.

### **5.4. Expansion of materials and techniques**

In the practice of decorative language, artists continue to expand the use of materials and techniques. In addition to traditional oil paints and canvases, they also use various comprehensive materials, such as paper, cloth, metal, and wood, to enrich the texture and expressive force of their works. At the same time, they attempt various new techniques, such as collage, printing and dyeing, relief, and so on, to create unique artistic effects. For example, the painter Xu Bing's series of "The Book of Heaven" used traditional woodcut techniques and modern printing techniques to create works with a strong sense of decoration. These works not only show the artist's superb skills but also bring new possibilities for the development of contemporary oil painting art.

## 5.5. Integration of traditional cultural elements

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art often combines traditional cultural elements to show unique national characteristics and cultural connotations [7]. Artists draw inspiration from China's traditional painting, folk art, arts and crafts, and apply traditional patterns, colors, and other elements to oil painting. For example, painter Fanzhi Ceng's "The Last Supper" combines traditional cultural elements of China, such as red background, golden lines, etc., so that the work has a contemporary artistic flavor, showing the inheritance and innovation of traditional culture.

## 6. Conclusion

The decorative language in China's contemporary oil painting art has distinctive features and unique artistic charm and value. Its innovation and practice in form, color, and composition have opened up a new road for the development of contemporary oil painting art in China. In future development, we should pay more attention to the research and application of decorative language, constantly explore and innovate, and promote the prosperity and development of contemporary oil painting art in China.

## Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

## References

- [1] Zhang J, 2024, The Decorative Language Characteristics and Practice of Contemporary Oil Painting Art in China. *Footwear Technology and Design*, 2024(13): 186–188.
- [2] Dai J, 2022, Grasp the Balance Between Color Application and Emotional Expression in Oil Painting Art Education—Comment on Color Art. *Education Development Research*, 42(20): 85.
- [3] Zhang L, 2022, Analysis of Emotional Expression of Color in Modern Oil Painting Art. *Peony*, 2022(04): 91–93.
- [4] Li L, 2021, Analysis of the Emotional Expression of Color in Modern Oil Painting Art—Comment on Color Art (Subjective Experience and Objective Principle of Color). *Journal of Tropical Crops*, 42(11): 3396.
- [5] Li J, 2021, The Importance and Emotional Expression of Color in Modern Oil Painting Art. *Creator*, 2021(11): 32–33.
- [6] Jiang W, 2021, Analysis of the Emotional Expression of Color in Modern Oil Painting Art. *Beauty and Time (Middle)*, 2021(09): 26–27.
- [7] Zhang Y, 2021, Techniques and Methods of Color Expression in the Process of Oil Painting Creation. *Daguan*, 2021(09): 168–169.

### Publisher's note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.