

Styles and Characteristics of Thematic Art Creation in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Regions

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Abstract: This article explores the styles and characteristics of thematic art creation in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions, analyzing the uniqueness of these regions' artistic backgrounds, artistic languages, theme selections, and expressive techniques. The art creation in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions is deeply influenced by traditional Chinese culture while incorporating Western artistic elements, exhibiting a diversified artistic style. Thematic art creation in these three regions has its own distinct features, including a deep exploration of local culture and a sensitive capture of the spirit of the times, which together constitute a rich and colorful artistic landscape in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions.

Keywords: Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions; Thematic art creation; Artistic style

Online publication: February 7, 2025

1. Introduction

The Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions, as an integral part of China, have formed unique styles of art creation due to their distinct historical, cultural, and social backgrounds. Thematic art creation, as an important component of art creation, not only reflects the social landscape and cultural characteristics of a region but also embodies the aesthetic pursuit and creative philosophy of artists. This article aims to explore the styles and characteristics of thematic art creation in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions, providing a reference for research in related fields.

2. Cultural background of thematic fine art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions

Thematic fine art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions are rooted in profound historical and cultural heritage and unique geographical features. They blend the essence of Chinese and Western cultures, exhibiting the diverse and unified cultural landscape of the Chinese nation.

2.1. Historical origins and cultural accumulation

Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions have been an integral part of China's territory since ancient times, boasting rich historical and cultural heritage. This cultural heritage provides abundant materials and inspiration for fine art creations in these regions.

Since its opening, Hong Kong has become an important hub for cultural exchanges between China and the West. Hong Kong's fine art creations are deeply influenced by traditional Chinese culture and Western modern art, forming a unique artistic style. In thematic fine art creations, Hong Kong artists often combine traditional Chinese cultural elements with Western modern artistic techniques, creating works that possess both traditional charm and a sense of the times ^[1].

As a city with a long history, Macao's fine art creations are also deeply influenced by Chinese and Western cultures. Macao's thematic fine art creations often integrate the essence of Chinese and Western cultures, exhibiting Macao's unique cultural landscape. For example, Macao artists often employ traditional Chinese painting techniques while drawing inspiration from Western painting colors and compositions, creating works that possess both traditional Chinese charm and a modern sensibility.

Fine art creations in the Taiwan region more prominently reflect the essence of traditional Chinese culture. In thematic fine art creations, artists in the Taiwan region often take traditional Chinese culture as the theme, employing various art forms such as painting and sculpture to showcase the profound and unique charm of Chinese culture ^[2]. Simultaneously, they also focus on absorbing nutrients from Western modern art, promoting the modern transformation and innovative development of traditional Chinese culture.

2.2. Regional characteristics and ethnic emotions

Thematic fine art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions are deeply influenced by regional characteristics and ethnic emotions. These works often take the geographical features, cultural landscapes, and ethnic customs of these regions as themes, showcasing the unique charm of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions through artistic means.

Hong Kong's fine art creations often revolve around the city's urban scenery, street life, and cultural symbols, exhibiting Hong Kong's modern urban landscape and humanistic feelings ^[3]. For instance, Hong Kong artists frequently depict the city's skyscrapers, bustling streets, and night market scenes in their creations, showcasing Hong Kong's prosperity and vitality through these culturally symbolic elements unique to the city.

Macao's fine art creations, on the other hand, embody the city's historical culture and human landscapes ^[4]. Macao artists often depict the city's historical buildings, cultural heritage, and natural landscapes in their works, showcasing Macao's unique charm and historical depth through these culturally distinct elements.

The fine art creations in the Taiwan region more prominently reflect the region's characteristics and ethnic emotions. Artists in the Taiwan region often take the island's natural scenery, folk customs, and historical culture as themes in their thematic fine art creations. Through various art forms such as painting and sculpture, they exhibit Taiwan region's cultural diversity and unique charm. These works not only showcase Taiwan region's natural beauty and cultural landscapes but also convey the people's love for their homeland and pride in their ethnic culture.

2.3. Exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures

Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions are deeply influenced by the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures. These works often blend the essence of both cultures, showcasing

the diverse and unified cultural landscape of the Chinese nation.

Hong Kong's art creations, based on the absorption of traditional Chinese culture, draw on the techniques and concepts of Western modern art, forming a unique artistic style. For example, Hong Kong artists often employ modern artistic techniques such as abstraction and figuration in their creations, while incorporating the brushwork and colors of traditional Chinese painting, to produce modern artworks with Hong Kong characteristics.

Macao's art creations also reflect the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures. Macao artists often draw on the colors and compositions of Western painting, while integrating the techniques and elements of traditional Chinese painting, to create works that combine Western modern art style with rich traditional Chinese charm.

Art creations in the Taiwan region focus more on the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese culture. In thematic art creations, artists in the Taiwan region often take traditional Chinese culture as the theme, showcasing the profound and unique charm of Chinese culture through artistic forms such as painting and sculpture^[5]. At the same time, artists in the Taiwan region also focus on absorbing the nourishment of Western modern art to promote the modern transformation and innovative development of traditional Chinese culture.

3. Artistic language of thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions

The thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions present a unique artistic language and aesthetic style in the context of the new era. These works not only enrich the diversity of art creations but also convey a love for the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation and a sense of national sentiment through artistic means.

3.1. Integration of regional culture and the spirit of the times

The thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions often combine regional culture with the spirit of the times, exhibiting distinct regional characteristics and features of the times. For example, Min Zheng, a Macao artist's Chinese painting "New Look of Macao," not only depicts Macao's landmark buildings, historical monuments, and street scenes but also portrays the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge connecting the Greater Bay Area, showcasing Macao's vigorous appearance and a better tomorrow in the new era. This work not only conveys the unique charm of Macao as an international city but also expresses the people of Macao's beautiful expectations for the future. The creations of Hong Kong artists also show similar characteristics. Changming Yao's oil painting "Horse Racing Continues in Hong Kong's Return" depicts the horse racing scene at the Sha Tin Racecourse in Hong Kong in a realistic manner, showing the vigorous vitality of the people of Hong Kong. This work not only reflects the social development and progress of Hong Kong since its return to the motherland but also expresses the Hong Kong people's love for the motherland and confidence in the future through horse racing, a cultural symbol with Hong Kong characteristics.

3.2. Intertwining of tradition and modernity

Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions often seek a balance between tradition and modernity, expressing the essence of traditional culture through modern artistic language. For example, Taiwan region painter Hongqian Lin's Chinese painting "Rise of China: Leaping into a New Era" transforms the image of "carp leaping over the dragon gate" to represent the revival of the Chinese nation. This work incorporates

modern elements through traditional Chinese painting techniques, forming a new artistic language that is both traditional and contemporary.

Macao painter Guoming Zeng's Chinese painting "Guarding the Heavenly Chaos" and Taiwan region painter Mingli Gong's Chinese painting "Old Days" boldly explore brushwork and ink language. In particular, "Old Days" incorporates colors such as white powder, ocher, and bright yellow into the painting, creating a rich visual hierarchy when combined with ink. This innovation based on traditional techniques not only enriches the expressive power of the painting but also conveys the creator's deep understanding of traditional culture.

3.3. Diversified artistic expression

Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions exhibit diversified expression techniques. These include not only traditional art forms like ink painting and oil painting but also modern art forms such as sculpture, installation, and video art. These diversified expression techniques provide artists with broader creative space, allowing them to express their thoughts and emotions more freely. For instance, the sculpture "Walking and Reciting" created by Macao artists Yichuan Zheng and Yongpei Qiu borrows from the traditional Chinese ivory carving art, emphasizing the depiction of character's clothing folds and adding a sense of dignity, shaping the moral demeanor of the characters. On the other hand, the sculpture "Dongjiang Column Rescue Cultural People" created by Chinese-American artist Shuguo Zhang employs a combination of round carving and relief carving to showcase the historical deeds of the Dongjiang Column. This excellent group of red revolutionary theme sculptures reflects the highly impressionistic nature of traditional Chinese sculpture culture.

In exploring painting forms, Hong Kong painter Xiaoli Zhang's Chinese painting "One Leaf" expresses a modern concept using traditional Chinese painting elements and techniques on an open book page, offering a unique perspective and novel approach. Taiwan region painter Yisheng Zhang's "Prosperity is Just a Dream, City" created with watercolors and gouache uses large areas of pure color blocks to express a city's state of mind and emotions, filled with constructivist implications.

3.4. Patriotic feelings and cultural identity

Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions often embody strong patriotic feelings and cultural identity. Through artistic means, these works convey the creators' love for their hometown and pride in Chinese culture. For example, in the art exhibition celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, many works focus on the theme of "the motherland is Hong Kong's strong backup," expressing the patriotic feelings of Hong Kong artists and compatriots. Works such as "Prosperous Tsim Sha Tsui," "Ode to the Return," "Kowloon Walled City," and "New Look of Hong Kong" showcase Hong Kong's vigorous development and thriving prosperity since its return to the motherland through delicate brushstrokes and exquisite compositions. These works not only convey the deep friendship between the Hong Kong people and the motherland but also demonstrate Hong Kong's unique charm as an international city.

In Macao, Guangrong Mai's oil painting "Ruins of St. Paul No.1" presents a mottled texture, showcasing the rich historical and cultural heritage of Macao. On the other hand, Chinese paintings like Desheng Li's "Birds Singing in the Woods" and Jiewen Liang's "Fleeting Beauty" express the harmonious atmosphere of Macao society and the joy of its people. Through artistic means, these works convey the Macao people's love for their hometown and their beautiful expectations for the future.

4. Theme selection for thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions

The theme selection for thematic art creations in Hong Kong is wide and diverse, ranging from depictions of local cityscapes to deep reflections on human history and culture. Hong Kong artists are skilled at capturing moments of city life and showcasing the diversity and inclusivity of Hong Kong society through their artistic works ^[6]. For example, Hong Kong artist Yuehui Pan's oil painting "Hong Kong's Tomorrow Will Be Better" features Hong Kong's cityscape as the background, expressing the prosperity and development of Hong Kong society through delicate brushstrokes and rich colors. At the same time, Hong Kong artists also focus on integrating local cultural elements into thematic creations to express their love and inheritance of local culture.

The theme selection for thematic art creations in Macao primarily focuses on local history and culture, customs, and cityscapes. Macao artists are adept at using artistic works to showcase Macao's unique charm and cultural heritage. For instance, Macao artist Ping Liu's "Impression of the Ruins of St. Paul" takes Macao's iconic building, the Ruins of St. Paul, as the background, presenting Macao's historical culture and cityscape through the language of lacquer painting. Simultaneously, Macao artists also emphasize integrating the spirit of the times into thematic creations to express their best wishes for Macao's future development.

The theme selection for thematic art creations in the Taiwan region is equally diverse, encompassing depictions of local natural landscapes and deep reflections on human history and culture. Artists of the Taiwan region excel at utilizing artistic works to exhibit Taiwan region's natural scenery and humanistic sentiments ^[7]. For example, Taiwan region artist Anping Zeng's landscape painting "Dreams of Mountains and Rivers" adopts a "high and far" composition mode, adhering to tradition while innovating in brushwork and texture. The ancient and modern buildings dotted in the painting imply the inheritance of the cultural context of landscape painting. Additionally, Taiwan region artists also prioritize integrating social and realistic issues into thematic creations to express their concern and reflection on society.

5. Expressive techniques in thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions

Hong Kong's thematic art creations emphasize a combination of innovation and tradition in their expressive techniques. Hong Kong artists are skilled at utilizing modern artistic expression methods to showcase local cultural elements and the spirit of the times ^[8]. For instance, Hong Kong artist Deyuan Zhu's "Bright Starlight" and Macao artist Ping Liu's "Impression of the Ruins of St. Paul" are both lacquer paintings that experiment with new painting materials, achieving striking visual effects. Simultaneously, Hong Kong artists focus on integrating traditional Chinese painting techniques with modern aesthetic concepts to create artworks with unique charm.

Macao's thematic art creations prioritize detailed representation and emotional conveyance in their expressive techniques. Macao artists excel at using delicate brushstrokes and rich colors to depict local cultural elements and the spirit of the times ^[9]. For example, Macao artists Yichuan Zheng and Yongpei Qiu's creation "Walking and Reciting" borrows from traditional Chinese ivory carving art, emphasizing the depiction of character clothing folds, adding a sense of dignity and shaping the moral demeanor of the characters. Furthermore, Macao artists strive to incorporate modern aesthetic concepts into traditional paintings, aiming to produce artworks with contemporary characteristics.

Taiwan region's thematic art creations emphasize the use of brush and ink and the creation of artistic conception. Taiwan region artists are adept at utilizing traditional Chinese painting techniques to express the

artistic conception of landscapes and the emotions of characters ^[10]. For instance, Taiwan region artist Mingli Gong's Chinese painting "Old Days" incorporates white powder, ocher, bright yellow, and other colors into the painting, creating a rich visual hierarchy when combined with ink. Additionally, Taiwan region artists focus on integrating modern aesthetic ideas into traditional paintings to produce artworks with distinct contemporary features. For example, Taiwan region artist Lifang Zhan's "Ocean Life" series breaks through the medium of traditional Chinese painting, achieving cross-material artistic fusion and demonstrating the innovative expression of Chinese painting in a contemporary context.

6. Exchange and integration of thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions

6.1. Exchange and integration of art creations in the three regions

With the continuous strengthening of cultural exchanges between the three regions across the Taiwan Strait, the thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions also show a trend of exchange and integration. Artists from these regions engage in artistic exchanges through exhibitions, seminars, and other formats, jointly exploring the future development direction of art creation. For instance, the "14th National Art Exhibition: Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan Regions, and Overseas Chinese Artists' Works Exhibition" opened at the Shenzhen Art Museum (New), receiving 1,044 qualified and valid entries from artists in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan regions, and overseas Chinese communities. These works represent the latest creative achievements of artists from these regions, reflecting the overall style and artistic level of art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions. Through exchange and integration, artists from the three regions learn from and inspire each other, jointly promoting the prosperous development of thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions.

6.2. Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions from a cross-cultural perspective

In the context of globalization, thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions also exhibit characteristics of cross-cultural exchange. Artists from these regions continuously enrich and improve their creative concepts and technical means by absorbing and drawing on international art trends and styles. Simultaneously, they also focus on integrating local cultural elements into international art exchanges, showcasing the unique charm and profound heritage of Chinese culture. For example, works such as Hong Kong artist Xia Li's "Urban You, Me, and Them" and Taiwan region artist Ziyuan Dong's "Flying Wonders on the Snowy Path" have received widespread praise and recognition in international art exhibitions. These works not only demonstrate the creative talent and aesthetic pursuit of artists from the three regions but also reflect the strong centripetal force and cohesion of Chinese culture.

7. Conclusion

Thematic art creations in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions exhibit rich and diverse artistic styles and characteristics with their unique cultural backgrounds, artistic languages, theme selections, and expressive techniques. Through exchange and integration, artists from these regions have jointly promoted the prosperous development of thematic art creations. In future development, artists from the three regions should continue to adhere to the principle of combining innovation with tradition, deeply explore local cultural elements and the connotations of the spirit of the times, and create more artistic works with unique charm and profound heritage.

At the same time, they should also strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the international art community, continuously improve their creative level and influence, and make greater contributions to the inheritance and development of Chinese culture.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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